

As you complete the Career Preparation Modules and related readings, activities and assignments you have created a Job Search Strategy that is unique to you. Use the following template to document your job search plan at this point in time. As you begin to implement your plan your goals, motivations, job interests, etc. may change. Therefore, continue to use this template as way to keep yourself accountable and focused to find a job, employer and career that best fits your needs and is unique to you.

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**Date: 03/04/2024**

**List your career goals. - Module 2 - Using the SMART goal method develop your list of 3-4 Career goals.**

**Insert your 3-4 SMART career goals here.**

1. Attending five relevant networking events monthly, connecting with two industry experts, contributing to a robust professional network by May 2025.
2. Submit 25 weekly applications to companies specializing in Machine Learning and Backend development, aiming for opportunities aligned with my career goals and maintaining this pace until May 2025.
3. Obtain the Certified Amazon Web Services (AWS) certification by completing required coursework and exams before the start of the summer term in 2024, enhancing attractiveness to potential employers.
4. Launch a comprehensive personal portfolio website by March 2024, showcasing skills, projects, and professional bio, aligning with this strategy to promote it to recruiters.

**List your experience, skills and strengths. Reflect on the readings and activities you completed in Module 4 – Build Your Brand. Create a list of your top 5 skills and your top 5 strengths. Include a brief example for at least 3 of your top skills, i.e., how you demonstrated the skill, and a brief example for at least 3 of your top 3 strengths, i.e., how you demonstrated the strength.**

**Insert your top 3 skills with your examples and your top 3 strengths with examples here.**

**Skills:**

### **1. Full Stack Development**

- Example – Designed and implemented 2 major features at Altran for Cisco, which improved the product's performance by 4.5%.

### **2. Machine Learning**

- Example – Completed two projects for Verzeo as a Machine Learning Intern and worked on Multi-Layer Convolutional Neural Networks using TensorFlow, Keras etc.

### **3. Problem Solving**

- Example – Deployed a Transport Controller GUI involving optical channels into production instead of the previous basic GUI setup which not only improved performance but also improved user interface.

#### **4. Backend Software Development**

- Example – Involved in the design and development of multiple aspects of the Cisco Network convergence system, impacting at least 20% of the other services in the NCS platform.

#### **5. Effective Communication**

- Example – Gathered requirements from various stakeholders at both Altran and Cisco to create extensive documentation, which was previously unavailable, helping all the new hires in both teams.

### **Strengths:**

#### **1. Leadership:**

- Example: Played a pivotal role in scaling the NCS team at Cisco from around 5 developers to over 15-strong developers, showcasing leadership and mentoring capabilities.

#### **2. Innovation:**

- Example: Conceptualized and developed an error caching and tolerance library at Altran, enhancing the reliability of the NCS platform services enhancing user experience.

#### **3. Critical Thinking:**

- Example: Orchestrated the transition of the implementation of a new and much better graphic card for the Transport Controller demonstrating a systematic and effective problem-solving approach using critical thinking.

#### **4. Adaptability:**

- Example: Successfully migrated new GUI and Graphic Card feature at Cisco, enabling high availability (HA) for hosts in the Cloud platform, showcasing adaptability to changing project requirements.

#### **5. Collaboration:**

- Example: Collaborated within cross-functional teams at Altran to manage the end-to-end development of 10 user flows for an improved CCNA interface for Verizon, highlighting effective teamwork and collaboration.

**Create your list of companies you'd like to work for from the list you created in Module 3 – Researching the Job Market. Modify the list to include 6-8 companies that interest you the most. This is an opportunity to not only list the companies but also include comments on why you would like to work there.**

**Insert your list of the top 6-8 companies and why you would like to work for them here.**

#### **1. Google**

Google is a leader in machine learning research and applications, from Google Search to DeepMind innovations. The opportunity to work on projects that impact billions of users and to learn from some of the brightest minds in the industry is incredibly appealing. The company's commitment to open-source projects and continuous learning environment provides a great platform for personal and professional growth.

## **2. OpenAI**

As a cutting-edge research company in artificial intelligence, OpenAI offers the chance to work at the forefront of AI technology, including natural language processing and generative models. Their commitment to ethical AI development and the potential to contribute to projects like GPT-3 is inspiring.

## **3. NVIDIA**

NVIDIA is at the heart of hardware, powering some of the most advanced machine learning systems in the world. Working here would allow me to contribute to groundbreaking technologies in AI and computing. The company's focus on continuous innovation and its role in enabling AI applications across various industries offers a unique blend of challenges and opportunities for growth.

## **4. GitHub**

GitHub is central to the coding community. The chance to work on tools that improve developer productivity and code quality is highly attractive. As a platform that values collaboration and open-source contributions, GitHub presents an environment where I can grow as a backend developer while contributing to the larger developer community.

## **5. Stripe**

Stripe uses machine learning to enhance its payment processing, fraud detection, and financial services. The opportunity to work on scalable backend systems that process millions of transactions is exciting. The company's culture of high-impact work, transparency, and rapid growth offers a dynamic environment to develop new skills.

## **6. Netflix**

Netflix uses powerful recommendation systems to personalize content recommendations and optimize streaming quality. The chance to influence the entertainment experiences of millions of users worldwide is a powerful motivator. The company's culture of freedom and responsibility, along with its commitment to using cutting-edge technology to solve complex problems, makes it an ideal place for creative and impactful work.

## **7. Slack**

Slack is revolutionizing workplace communication, and the opportunity to work on a platform that's essential for teams worldwide is compelling. Slack's focus on backend development for real-time messaging and collaboration tools offers a chance to work on high-availability systems.

## **8. Twilio**

Twilio is a cloud communications platform that enables developers to build, scale, and operate real-time communication within software applications. The chance to work on APIs and services that power communications for thousands of businesses around the world is incredibly motivating. Their focus on full-stack development, from backend infrastructure to frontend user interfaces, provides a dynamic environment for honing skills across the technology stack in a core software company.

Create a “to-do” list prior to starting your job search. An effective “to do” list is not just a list of things that you plan to do. Instead, it is a list of things you plan to do that includes prioritization and due dates.

Some examples of action items include: researching your top 5 companies of interest to learn more about what they do and their company culture. Or a list of the top 5 job descriptions you plan to research. Or creating a list of your professional references and contacting these references to request permission to use their name and contact information should an employer request your list.

Create a “to do” list of the top 5 items that you plan to accomplish as you start your job search. Set realistic deadlines for when each item should be finished so that you are accountable and more likely to complete all tasks. After writing down your "to-do list" items, add the items into a calendar or schedule.

Insert your “to-do” list below. Include realistic dates when you plan to complete each task. Note that this is your “to-do” list at this point in time. As you complete the tasks you will continue to add more to your list.

**1. Research Top 5 Companies:**

- **Task:** Gather detailed information about Microsoft, Google, Netflix, and OpenAI. Understand their company culture, values, and recent projects.
- **Deadline:** March 15, 2024

**2. Explore Backend Software Engineer Roles:**

- **Task:** Search and compile job descriptions for backend software engineer roles or general software engineer positions at my top 5 companies of interest.
- **Deadline:** March 20, 2024

**3. Identify Professional References:**

- **Task:** Create a list of potential professional references, considering supervisors, colleagues, or mentors from my previous roles. Contact them to request permission for future reference use.
- **Deadline:** March 25, 2024

**4. Build a Targeted Cover Letter Template:**

- **Task:** Create a template for a targeted cover letter that I can customize based on specific job applications. Tailor it to emphasize my skills, experiences, and alignment with the company's values.
- **Deadline:** April 5, 2024

**5. Network and Informational Interviews:**

- **Task:** Reach out to professionals in my network or those working at my top 5 companies. Schedule informational interviews to gain insights into their experiences and gather advice for your job search.
- **Deadline:** April 10, 2024

**What is your professional brand? Refer to Module 4 – Build Your Brand – the module in which you created your Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch).**

**Include your written Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch) here.**

Hey! I'm Nishchith Rao, a software engineer with a passion for crafting efficient and scalable solutions. With up to 2 years of experience, I've led impactful projects, from designing and implementing features at Capgemini to building Transport Controller GUI for Cisco during my time at Altran. Currently pursuing an MS in CS at Northeastern University, I bring proficiency in Full Stack Development and backend technology, coupled with expertise in Database Systems. At Northeastern, I am currently working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the course of Database Design. I have a keen interest in the fields of Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud and Web development. I've not only contributed significantly to reducing infrastructure deployment times but also excelled in resolving user interface vulnerabilities and mentoring teams. I'm on the lookout for a summer internship and a Fall Co-Op opportunity to further leverage my skills and make meaningful contributions to innovative projects. I would like to connect with and explore how my expertise aligns with the exciting opportunities at your company!

**Participate in networking opportunities - Module 5 – Building Your Network. Review the sites for On campus and Off campus Networking events. (Websites included in the module) Check out different Networking events and identify the ones you are interested in attending. Register for the event!**

**Insert a list of 3-4 Networking events you plan to attend here.**

1. [Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Conference](#)
2. [Boston Tech Career Fair: Exclusive Tech Hiring Event](#)
3. [32nd Annual Technology Conference by Tech Club at Harvard Business School](#)
4. [Quantum Series Part 3: Utility Scale Quantum Computing](#)