OYO[1]: THE "COUCH TO $50K" CAREER PLAN

6 Steps For Absolute Beginners

☐ **Draft a resume**

Resumes are no longer mandatory, but they are helpful in a lot of situations. A decent resume will help get you the interviews you need to land your first job offer. There are lots of templates online to help you get organized and start creating your 1-pg summary. We'd recommend you schedule an appointment with a career advisor to review your resume, or at least have a friend or family member read it and provide feedback.

☐ **Join Handshake**

Handshake is our school's website for applying to jobs. You already have an account - you just need to sign in, upload your resume, and spend a few minutes setting up your profile. Handshake gives you access to thousands of different employers looking to recruit UMass Amherst CICS students.

☐ **Practice an "elevator pitch"**

Seriously? Yes, it's important. There are going to be many situations between now and your first job offer when you need to introduce yourself and your career interests. Do yourself a favor and spend time up-front thinking about what you should say. Then practice it by yourself and with someone else to make sure you're ready for prime time.

☐ **Attend the next computer science career fair**

There are lots of career events but one of the most important is the career fair. Career fairs give you the chance to speak with many recruiters and employers on the same day. Often these employers will plan on-site interviews shortly after the career fair with the students they liked the best. An hour or two of strategic networking could be all you need.

☐ **Try to find an internship the summer before your graduation year**

Employers love internships because they can see how you work before committing to a full-time offer. For students, internships are the absolute best way to try out a company and get some valuable work experience before graduation. Most companies want to hire interns the summer before their graduation year so that if things work out, they can hire you again full-time.

☐ **Start on a computer science related side-project**

Miss the internship boat? Time to get creative and start side-projects that will help you practice valuable skills like programming and project management. Side projects show initiative and help you demonstrate capabilities. You won't get paid but when done correctly, you can have great examples to share on your resume and during interviews.

Done with all 6 steps? Bring your completed plan to CICS Careers!

[1] On-your-own "OYO" resources help you begin to find answers to your questions now.