

So you want a job in tech...

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career.grinnell.edu



Overview

- What kinds of jobs are there in the tech field?
- Finding jobs & internships
- Networking
- Résumés for tech jobs and internships
- Coding interviews
- Other ways to gain experience

career.grinnell.edu/channels/tech-data

What kinds of jobs are there?

- [Software development/engineering](#)
- [Project management](#)
- [Data science & analytics](#)
- [Database administration](#)
- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Hardware engineering](#)
- [Tech support](#)
- [UX/UI design](#)
- Human-computer interaction
- [Technical writing](#)
- [Scientific computing](#)
- Academic research
- Education & training
- Client relations
- [Computer systems analysis](#)

www.grinnell.edu/after-grinnell/graduate-outcomes

Where to look

- Tech-specific job boards
 - Dice
 - CrunchBoard
 - GameJobHunter (games industry)
 - Dribbble (graphic design)
 - DataJobs
 - Outreachy (open-source internship program)
- Tech companies' websites
 - buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com
 - metacareers.com/careerprograms/students
- Handshake: use filters & save search
- Indeed.com, Google job search function
- LinkedIn

Networking

- LinkedIn:
 - Grinnell College → Alumni → filter by major, employer, field
 - Keyword search for companies you're interested in/applying to
 - Keyword search for specific roles (e.g., product manager)
 - **Grinnellians in Tech** and **Grinnellians in Data Science** groups
- GrinNetworking Facebook group
- CLS student-alum virtual meetups

Résumé

- Present your education, experience, skills
- Think about transferable skills:
 - What have you done that's relevant to tech roles?
 - What have you done that's relevant to *any* professional setting?
- Paid employment, volunteering, course-embedded work, programming projects, and leadership are all valuable

Résumé: education

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science [and Other Major]

expected May 2026

Grinnell College

Grinnell, IA

- Cumulative GPA X.X/4.0; Major GPA X.X/4.0
- *Selected coursework:* [4 – 5 relevant courses]

MUST include:

- Bachelor of Arts (the only degree offered by Grinnell College), your major(s)
- Expected month/year of graduation
- Grinnell College; Grinnell, IA

SHOULD include:

- GPA: cumulative and major
- Short list of courses: Where did you gain important skills? Online courses can be in this section, too.

Résumé: skills

Skills

Programming languages: [in **decreasing order** of proficiency (e.g., your best language first)]

Tools & technologies:

Operating systems:

- Anything listed here is fair game for interview questions or demonstration.
- If it's mentioned in the job ad and you can do it, be sure to list it!

Résumé: experience

- You've listed your technical skills; now show what you know how to do
- Elements of a great bullet point: Accomplished X...as measured by Y...by doing Z

The bullet point formula: X – Y – Z

- Accomplished **X** as measured by **Y** by doing **Z**
- ✓ Decreased processing time by **Y%** by eliminating bottlenecks and duplicated steps
- ✓ Increased club membership by **Y%** by targeting communications to computer science majors
- ✓ Placed second in hackathon out of **Y** teams by collaboratively developing an app that alerts users to free food available on campus

Quantify scale: How many students were in the class you mentored? How many members are in your student group? What kind of budget?

Résumé: experience

Research Experience

Undergraduate Research Assistant

May – August 2023

Grinnell College, Department of Mathematics

Grinnell, IA

- The primary goal of the research/title of project
- The main thing you specifically did, highlighting technical skills
- Another thing you did, highlighting interpersonal skills
- Presentation or publication, if any

For a MAP: “Undergraduate Research Assistant,” “Mentored Advanced Project Student Researcher”

For an REU: “Undergraduate Research Assistant,” “REU Student Researcher”

For a class project: “Student Researcher (Course-Embedded Project)” – and include the class title/department

Résumé: experience

Leadership Experience

Co-Leader, GrinTech

August 2022 – present

Grinnell College, Department of Computer Science

Grinnell, IA

- Quantify scale: number of people, size of budget, scope of work
- Describe impact: how did your community benefit?
- Demonstrate collaboration with other students, faculty, administration, etc.

Résumé: experience

Professional Experience

Software Engineering Intern

May – August 2024

Google

Mountain View, CA

- The main thing you specifically did, highlighting technical skills
- A tough problem you solved or a key result you delivered
- Another thing you did, highlighting interpersonal skills

Résumé: experience

Programming Projects

[Name of project #1]: [what it does] + [programming language]

[Name of project #2]: [what it does] + [programming language]

[and so on!]

- These can be class projects or things you've done on your own
 - Focus here if you don't have much experience yet
 - If you've taken CS324, it should be on your résumé!
- Don't need a lot of detail for these once you've got other experience to talk about
- Include links where you can

Technical interviews

- Demonstrate skills and approach to problem-solving
- During your interview:
 - Ask questions
 - Think out loud
 - Consider possible approaches
 - Find a basic solution, then improve it. Think **BUD**:
 - **Bottlenecks** that slow down your run time
 - **Unnecessary** work
 - **Duplicated** work

Technical interviews

- Preparation:
 - Practice coding on a whiteboard or shared doc, and talking through your work
 - Review algorithms & data structures
 - Pick your language
 - Connect with alumni for advice and mock interviews

tryexponent.com/grinnell

career.grinnell.edu/channels/prepare-for-an-interview/

Alternatives to formal internships

- Skill-build with personal projects
 - Build up your github and/or build a personal website
 - [Project ideas](#)
- Complete coding challenges
- Contribute to open-source projects (opensource.guide/how-to-contribute/)
- Learn a new programming language or technical skill
 - LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, Educative, etc.

Online course ideas

- Python:
 - [Google Python crash course](#)
 - [IBM Python for data science and AI](#)
- Fullstack:
 - [IBM fullstack course](#)
- Free:
 - [Cybersecurity foundations](#)
 - [Introduction to TCP/IP](#)
- [LinkedIn Learning](#)

Support from the CLS

career.grinnell.edu

- Career Communities & Identities → Technology & Data
- Find resources, connect with alumni, take LinkedIn Learning courses, get experience, and more

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Coming up

Microsoft Alumni Panel: Considering Careers in Tech

- Thursday, September 14, 6:00 pm, HSSC A1231
- Ali Akgun '93, Edward Chung '92, Margo Crandall '87, Stephane Nyombayire '05

Lunch with Young Alums in Tech

- Friday, September 15, noon, Whale Room
- Halle Remash '20 and Marli Remash '20

Tech & Data Student-Alum Virtual Meetup

- Wednesday, September 20, 7:00 pm, virtual

