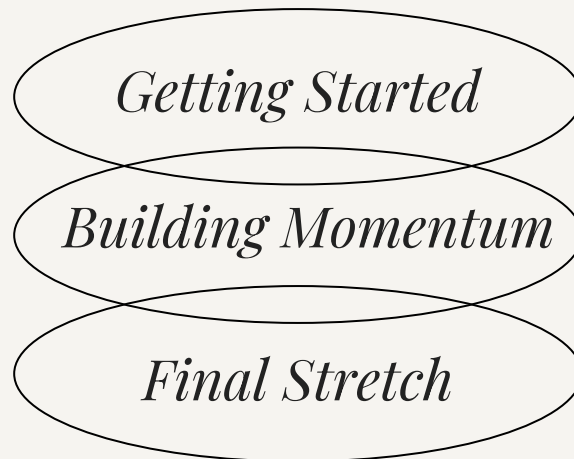


Breaking Into TECH

A step-by-step guide to your time at Northwestern



Explore the steps, experiences, and resources that can help you build technical skills, grow your network, and successfully launch a career in tech at Northwestern. See hyperlinks + following pages for more information.

Getting Started:

- Meet with your [career advisor](#)
- Take a [self-assessment](#)
- Select coursework
- [Join](#) tech clubs
- Build your network
- [Research](#) career pathways
- Get started on [Handshake](#)

Building Momentum:

- Meet with your [career advisor](#)
- Strategize for your internship search
- Apply for roles on [Handshake](#)
- Attend [employer events](#)
- Build your professional [network](#)
- Develop technical skills
- Gain professional skills
- Practice technical assessments

Final Stretch:

- Meet with your [career advisor](#)
- Develop a full-time job/graduate school search strategy
- Create a portfolio
- Apply on [Handshake](#)
- Attend employer events
- Maintain and grow professional connections
- Accept offer!

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Getting Started:

- **Meet with your career advisor in Handshake:** NCA can help you research opportunities in tech and secure professional experiences.
- **Take a self-assessment:** Explore your career interests, professional values, and skills with an NCA advisor.
- **Select coursework:** Evaluate which academic programs you are interested in and will help you build technical skills. You also have access to LinkedIn Learning.
- **Join student clubs:** Engage with tech clubs and entrepreneurial spaces on campus to explore, learn, and build a peer network.
- **Build your network:** Speak with upperclassmen and alumni in the industry about their experience.
- **Research career pathways:** From opportunities in the tech industry (specialized and non-technical roles) to technical roles in other industries, take time to learn about industry trends and hiring timelines. Visit the NCA technology industry page and other career research resources.
- **Get started on Handshake:** Update your profile and career interests, register for events, and check out opportunities.

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Building Momentum:

- **Meet with your career advisor:** NCA can help you develop an internship search strategy including networking, application writing, communicating with employers, interview prep, and offer negotiation.
- **Strategize your Internship Search:** Identify which skills you'd like to develop in an internship, what professional environment you are drawn to, and what areas you are most excited about.
- **Apply for roles on Handshake:** You can also find industry specific job boards on NCA's Industry page under online resources.
- **Attend employer events:** Connect with employers through on-campus recruitment events and career fairs. You can find events on Handshake or McCormick Connect.
- **Build your professional network:** Gain insider knowledge, get advice, learn about industry trends, and possibly receive a referral. Learn more here.
- **Develop technical skills:** Take project-based courses, participate in hackathons or open-source projects, find tech-focused clubs or entrepreneurial projects, etc.
- **Gain professional skills:** Employers value big-picture thinking, curiosity, business acumen, and more. Highlight these attributes by taking on leadership roles, group projects, independent research, and jobs/internships.
- **Practice technical assessments:** Use coding platforms like LeetCode or HackerRank to prepare for technical interviews confidently.

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Final Stretch:

- **Meet with your career advisor:** Partner with NCA to refine your approach for the full-time job search.
- **Develop a full-time job/graduate school search strategy:** Identify your target employers/schools, track application deadlines and requirements, and set goals.
- **Create a portfolio:** Maintain a GitHub profile showcasing class, independent, and contributions to open-source projects
- **Apply for postings on Handshake:** You can also find industry specific job boards on NCA's Industry page
- **Attend employer events:** Connect with employers through on-campus recruitment events and career fairs. You can find events on Handshake or McCormick Connect
- **Maintain and grow professional connections:** Build professional connections by reconnecting with past mentors, managers, and Northwestern alumni.
- **Accept offer and complete degree:** Congratulations! Your hard work has paid off!