Advising Notes

Review of Classes
1. Review classes to determine progress towards graduation
   a. This should include a detailed review to ensure that all transfers and associated transfers are done.
   b. Ensure that any approved equivalencies are included.
   c. Ensure that the CSC 300, 295-2 and 471 equivalencies for MAT 271, 281 and 361 have been made.
   d. Make sure that you are visiting with your General Education advisor. If you don't do this, you may wind up with gaps.
2. Review credits per semester – If you have heavy outside load (more than 20 hours/week) reduce to a lower credit load.
3. Review grades to determine potential for success in major
   a. Low math grades including repeated attempts at MAT 153 may indicate need to switch to Information Technology (IT) or Computer Technology Homeland Security track. The CS major is very theoretical and the reality is that if you are having trouble with advanced algebra may never be ready for Analysis of Algorithms. If you like programming you can still go the IT route.
   b. Don't start PHY 130 until you have completed first semester of calculus (MAT 191).
   c. A poor grade in CSC 121 indicates that CS may not be the appropriate track, at least without retaking the class. Given the fact that IT and CT students are also in the class, which slows the pace, less than a B in this class means that you will have to work to catch up if you are to succeed in CS.
   d. Understand the difference between the various Computer Science tracks. Figure out which one meets your career goals and talents.
4. Electives
   a. Try to plan out two semesters of electives in advance.

Opportunities at School
1. STEM Advantage
   a. This is one of the best programs available. A stipend, extra academic help, and help finding a summer internship.
   b. There is a small window in September when you can apply.
2. CS Department web site and CS Department bulletin board
   a. Review these on a regular basis. Check your e-mail as well.
3. Google Training for Internship Interviews
   a. This is a terrific option that you should pursue.
4. Attend the job fairs.
   a. Making contacts can help you get past the Internet application process.
5. Make use of the employment office.

Getting an Interview
1. Sign-up on LinkedIn
2. Sign-up on other job sites
3. Check the web-site of any company you are interested in.
4. Tailor each resume with key words that match the description of the job you are applying for.
5. Leverage school resources including the job fairs, employment office, STEM Advantage, professors, etc. to obtain initial contacts.
6. Look at the Technical magazines, in particular IEEE Computer, etc.

Advice on Interviewing
Below are some tips that I recommend to students
1. Dress appropriately.
2. Maintain eye-contact.
3. Research the company in advance. Understand its mission statement.
4. Always make it seem that you want the job you are interviewing for. Showing that you are really interested in the job is extremely important.
5. Make sure that the resume is reflective of the job you are applying for.

Career Options
Students are unaware of the breadth of opportunities that are available. Below is a list of some of the industries I recommend that you consider, based upon your major. You should also consider where you want to work in terms of location, company size, etc.
1. Aerospace Industry – Strong in Southern California. Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, Aerospace Corp., Harris, etc.
2. Commercial Aerospace – SpaceX, etc. SPACEX is local and has community roots.
3. Core Computing Companies – Google, Amazon, Apple, Oracle, Microsoft, etc.
4. Communications – Cisco, Verizon, AT&T, etc. Many of these are especially good opportunities for CT personnel as well
5. Government – Homeland Security (great Intern Program), CIA, NSA, other agencies. Note: Many require citizenship.
6. Military – Opportunities to become an officer, work in technical fields. I do mention that there are potential dangers, especially with deployments, in the military. But they provide great training and lead to many career opportunities.
7. Health – Kaiser, UMG, etc. This is an expanding industry. There are a tremendous number of opportunities, especially for our IT majors.
8. Energy – A terrific field. Very high paying. Very technical advanced software.
9. Automotive – Rise of automation in our vehicles leads to many opportunities.
10. Entertainment – Various studios and amusement parks. Well-funded industry with lots of automated technologies.
11. Insurance – Again good for IT types as well as those with a math orientation. They pay very well and tend to be well-established.
12. Startups/Newer Companies – Need to keep an ear to the ground and work through contacts. This is a little harder for new grads with minimal experience.
13. Other – Almost all companies have an IT department or outsource to an IT company.

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