

<https://tinyurl.com/brandon-lo-career-guide>

Availability

Due to high demand, I am unable to accept every request for a meeting. I may also send an email to reschedule if a timeslot on my page does not work for me (it is set automatically).

Please read this before scheduling a meeting

Topics I don't like

- Questions about information you can find on my [LinkedIn](#)
 - Asking me about certain experiences is welcome, but I would recommend not asking questions like “can you tell me about your experiences?” when that information is readily available
- Grad School
- Certificates
- FYI: I do resume reviews but I would take my advice with a grain of salt since I'm not a recruiter
 - Here is the resume template I use, please review it and make changes you see fit before asking for a review: [Resume Template](#)

Topics I do like

Interviews & Early-Career

- Structure of answering a technical coding interview
- Technical interview prep strategies
- How to succeed during an internship
- How to traverse finding internships/ new grad roles

Obstacles

- Personal or career related

How to stand out/ what can I do to land a job

- Take what I say with a grain of salt, I would also ask a recruiter what they look for but I can speak on my personal experience
- I have a lot of information in my guide, please review that first

Research positions, school clubs, alumni networking

- How to land research positions
- What clubs to join
- How to find school events
- How to connect with alumni

Anything else not in my Topics I don't like or in my career guide

If you reach here, include :) in the additional notes section of your meeting request.

Resume Advice

See my resume template above. If you have a similar format that is a good starting point.

Have a consistent format

Your format for positions, dates, locations, etc. should be uniform throughout your resume. Make sure all verbs are in the same tense, punctuation is consistent, all fonts are the same, etc.

Quantify your impact whenever possible

Each experience should have quantifiable impact such as “improved xx by yy%” or “xx # of users”. This makes your resume way more effective.

Use all your space

This is the biggest mistake I see students making. If you have lines that only have 1-2 words or take up half a line, either expand or condense them. Don't waste precious space when you only have one page to work with.

How to prepare for interviews

Leetcode:

The most important thing is to practice Leetcode questions.

If you are new to Leetcode, this is what I would recommend:

1. Learn the basics of the language you want to use
2. Familiarize yourself with DSAs and Algorithms and the runtimes associated with them
3. Use Neetcode to go through problems by DSA
 - a. Start with the Blind 75, then Neetcode 150
 - b. Spend a few minutes on it by yourself and if you can't figure it out, look at solutions/ watch the video solution
4. Look at Leetcode tagged questions for companies you're applying to or have interviews for

How to ace the interview

During the interview:

1. Ask clarifying questions to show your initial thoughts.
 - a. Input/output format, data types, edge cases, performance requirements (time/space complexity), and any limitations or assumptions.
2. Discuss possible solutions, beginning with the simplest, worst case approach and gradually working towards an ideal solution. Include efficiency and trade-offs. Write down your ideas on the shared doc with your interviewer.
3. Once you and your interviewer have agreed on a solution, begin implementing the code.
4. Step through your code using the test/edge cases you came up with earlier. Use this time to fix any bugs and verify that your implementation behaves as expected.

How to job search

Check out the [Internship Github](#) and [New Grad Github](#). These have a lot of great jobs listed everyday but these are also some of the most applied to jobs.

There are also common platforms like LinkedIn and Handshake you can use.

Biggest tip: **Apply early**. Job applications are currently being flooded and either close quickly or they may never get to your application.

Events

Check out events in your cities or campus like *career fairs*, *networking events*, *hackathons*, and *tech conferences*. A good way to find these is through your network and staying up to date with social media, online resources, and clubs. (See some resources up above)

Referrals

If you can, apply with a referral. Referrals can give you a significant boost in the application process. This can be a lot more effective than cold applying to hundreds of jobs.

How do I get a referral?

The simple answer is to build your network, but obviously there's more to it than that. Here are some tips I have for building your network:

1. **Meet other students.** College is the best way to meet other people in the same career path as you. These connections may end up being able to refer you down the line or they may have other connections that can help you. At the very least, you can share resources, application tips, and academic advice.
2. **Meet Alumni.** This is also one the most useful and underutilized resources from college. There will also be alumni networking events or platforms you should keep an eye out for. You can also reach out directly and some may be willing to help you.
3. **Live in a tech hub.** If you have the choice, live and/or get an internship in a tech city like San Francisco, New York, or Seattle. There will be many opportunities to connect with new people through intern events, networking events, living situation, and work.
4. **Cold messaging.** This might be the least effective way, but cold messaging can and does work. You can easily find people on LinkedIn who work a job you want and have similar interests to you. Reach out for a coffee chat and you'll be surprised what can come of it.

Resources

Interview Prep:

- [Leetcode](#) (this should be obvious)
- [Neetcode](#): Leetcode problems organized by DSA, helpful video solutions

Job Search:

- [Internship Github](#)
- [New Grad Github](#)
- LinkedIn
- Handshake

Networking/Events:

- [CS careers discord](#)
- [Luma](#)
- LinkedIn
- [Bobataalks](#)

Resume:

- [Resume Template](#)