

STEM SPOTLIGHT

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Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
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Q: How did you select your college major?

A: Growing up, I spent the majority of my time at home either playing videogames or in front of a computer. It was what I really enjoyed doing and Computer Science really aligned well with my interests and hobbies.

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

A: I knew that Computer Science was a very flexible degree that could launch me into a variety of careers ranging from software engineer to video game developer to cyber security architect. I chose the degree because I was highly interested and excited about learning everything related to the subject. My parents were happy because they knew all of the possible careers paths would pay well – even straight out of college.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: There actually isn't one course in particular because I took all the electives I was allowed to take related to programming and Computer Science.



However, if I could go back to high school, I would spend a lot more of my free time teaching myself how to program. There are some really good

websites out there that offer free tutorials like codecademy.com. It wasn't until college that I realized how important it is to be able to teach things to yourself. I wish I had realized in high school that I didn't need a class or a teacher to learn something I was interested in.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: That's really hard to pick because there so many great things going on here at Wayfair.com! I'll start by saying my favorite thing is that the people here are extremely talented and knowledgeable about their career. We have engineers here who went to MIT, Harvard, WPI and many more reputable schools. We also have people who have worked at some of the best companies in the tech industry such as Microsoft and Amazon. They are an amazing resource and I can learn so much from them. Second, I'd have to say I love how complex such a simple thing like an ecommerce website can be. We get to experience a large variety of problems ranging from very trivial problems to more complex ones that are NP complete and everything in between.

Lastly, the environment here is relaxed yet professional at the same time. We are able to come to work in blue jeans, shorts, sandals, t-shirts, and polo shirts. If we get stuck on a problem, we can take a break and play some foosball or ping pong and come back to the problem with a fresh mind and a different perspective. There are a zillion reasons to work at Wayfair.com but I feel like that should be a separate novel.

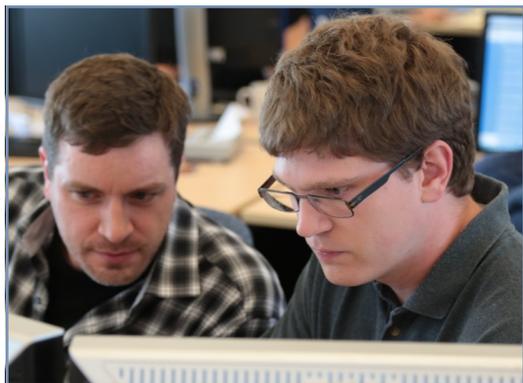
Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: Wayfair.com gives back to the community in many ways and really encourages its employees to support the causes they believe in on an individual basis, whether that be promoting STEM in schools or building a house for a family in need through our international partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Wayfair.com's founders believe that everyone deserves a place to call home. That's why we support Build, Habitat's movement to create a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

In addition, the company formed the Charitable Giving Program in 2004 to encourage employees to give back to their communities. The employee driven, company-enabled program allocates funds to nonprofit agencies and charitable causes that employees are invested in through their personal commitments of time, money, and energy. So each and every employee can pick the cause that means the most to them and Wayfair.com will support those efforts. In fact, in 2013, Wayfair.com donated \$75,000 to charitable organizations where employees donate their money or time. In addition, the company allows everyone one paid day off each year to participate in community service.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

A: Having just started, I have been able to work with our schedule maintenance request system which allows us to add or remove products to the website. It sounds simple at first, but it gets complicated quickly when what appears as one product to the consumer with multiple options is actually millions of products to Wayfair.com because of all the possible combinations. This system allows our sales teams to



add or remove these products as if it were one product. This system does all the heavy lifting and it's really cool that my team made it happen!



Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A: I love getting up and coming to work because I know there will be rewarding problems to solve and excellent people to work with. What makes it even better is that we are offering millions of people products that they will use every day. The fact that my job helps people get items they want or need to have a comfortable home and at a reduced price is greatly satisfying.

Q: What advice would you like to share with students who are considering your profession?

A: I would suggest learning as much as you can on your own by either buying a book or going online to learn about whatever specialization that you are interested in. Be it, building a website, creating a video game, or learning how to program, there is a guide, book, and tutorial on the subject. You just have to have the motivation to start now. Don't be afraid to teach yourself. And that doesn't mean you can't ask for help. It means that you work on it in your free time instead of watching television or playing video games. The sooner you start learning, the better you will be and the more likely you will get the job you really want after college.