

NDCS MANIFESTO

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COMPUTER SCIENCE (2), FINANCE, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

I'm a freshman here at Notre Dame. I'm still learning dorm traditions, chanting cheers, and bonding with roommates, just like everyone else around me. I tailgated before football games and screamed during touchdowns. I went up for pushups and fell off of the bleachers. I have friends in the sciences, business, and humanities, and across all grades.

I've heard that computer science majors at other schools are much more introverted and that they start making apps their freshman year. As a engineering intent in the First Year of Studies, I worked in MATLAB and made a robot animal out of LEGO. I'd never programmed before; these projects helped me decide to study computer science.

It's sophomore year, and I'm learning about recursion. It's tough. A lot of kids are switching majors now. Object-oriented programming is taking a bit to get used to as well, but I think I'm starting to like programming. Even though some students are dropping the major, the CS department gets more popular every year. Probably because every CS graduate has a job. The department is doing well—those consulting jobs in Chicago sound great!

Junior year is intense; Data Structures and Computer Architecture are kicking my butt. A few graduates who work at Google came back to campus and raved about working in Silicon Valley; maybe I should apply and see what happens? When I spoke to one of the graduates, she recommended I learn some "algorithms;" I guess we won't learn them otherwise until senior year?

Google's interview was really hard, but in the end they offered me an internship! I'm glad I studied prefix trees; they were a big part of the first question. I've been telling my friends to apply as well, but many of them are intimidated by the interview process and don't want to study data structures on their own time.

Google was incredible; I loved California and met so many cool people. Some interns had been coding since middle school, and half the time I didn't even know what they were talking about. Google's offered me a position full-time, and I think I'm going to take it. I'm thrilled to be surrounded by such excitement for startups! I can't wait to build the next big thing.

It was different, coming back to Notre Dame. I've realized that many Notre Dame computer science students are complacent in their ambitions. Why don't more of us try to found a startup, or move to Silicon Valley? Bob just signed a consulting gig with Accenture in Chicago; he didn't even wait to hear back from Google!

Damn ND CS majors. They're all alike.

Maybe the tide is turning; I've heard the CS department is accelerating the curriculum, and more and more students are pursuing career opportunities in startups and in Silicon Valley. We need these changes, and others, as soon as possible. Hopefully, in the future, we will be prepared to aspire to even the most competitive of jobs in Silicon Valley.

This is more than just a manifesto of the Notre Dame computer science student; it's a call to action, an invitation to pursue something else for a change.

Something less comfortable.



NDCS PROFILE

NAME:

AGE: 17-22

GENDER: PROBABLY MALE

EDUCATION: UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

PRIMARY MAJOR: COMPUTER SCIENCE

APPEARANCE AND DRESS

Mostly Caucasian, not the typical nerd stereotype. Branded T-shirts from Google, Microsoft, and LinkedIn are very common.

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

Scale from 1 (least) to 10 (most) "nerdy"
Real World Nerd Scale: 4
Notre Dame Modified Nerd Scale: 9

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Practices Western standards of personal hygiene without (usually) being reminded to do so. Enjoys sleep and showers; notion of a "hackathon" is foreign.

EATING HABITS

Prefers North Dining Hall.

READING HABITS

Can, but doesn't, read.

OTHER INTERESTS

Common second majors among the Liberal Arts esp. Theology. Enjoys board and card games as well as going to The Backer with friends on the weekends and Netflix.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORTS

Fingers are pretty strong. Will play intramural sports if dragged by non-CS friends.

RELIGION AND POLITICS

Catholic, possibly unpracticing. Conservative.

POST-GRAD PLANS

Consulting firm in Chicago.