Interview Guide
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When to start: When starting junior year, read through some general tech interview questions in order to understand what kinds of questions tech interviewers ask so you know what is important to remember long term in your classes. This should also help with the internship interviews that you will be having around this time.
Also think about what field you want to go into and what you would want to dedicate yourself to so that you can take the necessary classes for this.

How to prepare: Think about what you can talk about to the interviewer.
Study up on the company or anything you might need to know for the interview that will help you have a better idea of what you're getting into and also can help leave a positive impression. Some companies have longer online application processes even before you get an interview. These can be important for both understanding what the company is looking for as well as setting a tone for who you are. Some companies allow for you to add a cover letter if you want. Do this. Writing a one page explanation for why you want to work for a company and why you would help them is a good exercise whether or not they even look at the cover letter. When asked why someone should hire you, be able to answer with a confident vision in mind.

Potential Visions:
- They have the resources to allow for you to do what you want
- They have a goal/mission statement that matches your personal goals
- You are getting a job for the money and you are there to work. This is good for companies without a clear socially conscious mission.
- You love the work that they allow you to do. Be genuine and able to express this passion.

What resources:
Glassdoor is a site that's great for checking the average pay of differing companies for different positions. You can use this to know which company may pay better and whether you are being lowballed in a contract (see contracts and negotiations below for more details). This company sometimes has actual interview coding questions as well as general interview questions.
Reddit is amazing for finding long form explanations of people's personal experiences with any company that you are applying to.
Graduate Students can be asked about these things.
Google Searching can be used whenever there a stage in the interviewing process that has a name. For instance IBM has a *finishline* event they never specify what this means as far as do you have the job yet if you get to it. It is bizarrely taboo to ask about

your chances of getting a job or what things really mean. You are expected to not ask questions and play along until the contract is in front of you or until they explicitly ask you questions like "are there any dealbreakers for you". So, google things. From the internet you can find sites such as the hirevue blog that explains the hiring process that they sell to large companies and the *finishline* event is one such explained process.
Mock interviews: The Career Center offers these and you could even ask a friend to help.

What extracurriculars: Extracurriculars can be a way of showing the recruiter who you are outside of what you're studying. However, being involved in an extracurricular that involves the field that you want to work in can help show your interest for that field.

How to take advantage of networking and alumni: Don't be afraid of emailing or contacting people. They most likely remember being in a similar position or have someone close to them going through something similar so they'll be willing to help. Follow up with people and try to keep connections once you have them because you don't know how they can help you.

How to approach contracts and negotiations:
Think about what you want ahead of time and check if it is realistic. Negotiations can be done if you have been offered a job by another company or if you act confident that you can get a job with another company if you want (or if you say you have another offer but do not actually have one). Some companies will ask you if there are any dealbreakers for you even before the contract is in front of you. If money is your main focus, bring it up here. Avoid the pitfall of asking for more money on the basis that you deserve because you are you (this can be seen as cocky). Instead say you deserve more because that is the market value for the job that you can competently complete.

Other:
Look up how to read a contract. Understand sections such as non-compete clauses and what benefits are. Check the location of the job and understand the cost of living and how it compares to other regions. The same job should pay more if you live in an expensive area.