

Tech Industry Foundational Knowledge

Industry Overview

Interested in breaking into the technology industry? The tech industry, also known as the ‘tech economy’, ‘high tech’, or simply ‘tech’, is fundamentally the economy itself. With the rise of social media and e-commerce, technology is ubiquitous— it is the essence of the economy.

The truth is, the technology industry is no longer separated from the rest of the economy. What this means for you: You are in a position of total advantage. Your career options are not limited to startups or tech cities.

The tech industry encompasses several business sectors, like e-commerce, internet software and services, financial technology, consumer electronics, and telecommunications. It is constantly evolving through innovation and new creative processes, which regularly create new jobs. Because there are so many job options, you can allow your interests to guide you toward a career you can enjoy, such as software development, programming, or digital communications.

In this guide, we will cover important information about tech, different types of roles, how to find opportunities, and how career services can help you enter this industry.

Current situation of the industry

As of Fall 2023, you might have noticed some tech companies initiating hiring freezes and even layoffs. Those stories might have you doubting whether a career in tech is a great idea right now. Fortunately, these layoffs are not the whole story: overall hiring in tech remains robust, with organizations across the country seeking technologists skilled in a variety of disciplines.

Companies are also more than happy to pay extraordinary salaries to technologists with the right mix of skills and experience. Regardless of the current state of the economy, there remains a critical need among organizations both within and outside the traditional tech sphere for technologists who can build websites, manage networks and defend the tech stack against internal and external threats.

Types of roles in Tech

Getting a job in the tech industry is not just about learning how to code. With tech embedded in every aspect of our lives, there are more and more options for people who want to get into tech. Understanding the types of roles is important to know what to expect and how to shape your career path.

- **Technical Roles in Tech**

Most people, when thinking about roles in tech, think of those that involve technical skills. These include but are not limited to

- Engineering

- Product: Working with specific tech “products” as a manager of relationships and getting the project out/ marketed, or in their design
- UX/UI: user experience design
- Support
- DevOps/Infrastructure
- Security
- Quality
- Data Science
- IT

- **Non-Technical Roles in Tech**

If you are looking for non-technical roles at a tech company, this could include:

- Customer Success
- Marketing
- Recruiting
- Sales
- Accounting
- Business Development and Operations
- Legal

Advice on how to choose the right type of role

Decide whether you are interested in technical or nontechnical roles. The breadth of your knowledge determines which roles are readily available to you and which parts appeal to your interests.

Choose which of the available options you find appealing. Then, research role-specific responsibilities and requirements to decide whether you like them or not. Finally, narrow down your options to up to three so that you know what you truly want and so you can have an easier and more defined job search. P.S.: Career Services can help you in this process. Just make an appointment on Handshake with us!

Top highest-paying companies in Tech

These companies are constantly pushing the envelope when it comes to new technology, and they need the best employees to help them develop and bring new products and services to market. They are also in a constant battle to attract and retain the best talent, so they are willing to pay top dollar to keep their engineering teams strong.

- Meta
- Google
- Microsoft
- LinkedIn
- IBM
- Ebay

- Adobe
- Amazon
- Apple
- Cisco
- HP
- Intel
- Oracle
- Salesforce
- Samsung
- SpaceX
- Tesla
- Qualcomm

*from e-GMAT

Where to find opportunities in the Tech industry

Whether you are looking for internships or full-time roles, we got you covered. These are the top platforms where you can find your next big tech opportunity.

- **Straight to the Source:** Find opportunities directly on the company's website. You can identify companies by creating a list like the one above via google or chatGPT
- **LinkedIn:** LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network on the internet. You can use LinkedIn to find the right job or internship, connect and strengthen your network. To search for internship listings, go to the jobs tab at the top of the page and put "(type of role) internship" in the search box. For example: "UX/UI internship." Then refine your search by filling in the boxes on the left side of the page. The same process applies if you are looking for jobs.
- **Handshake:** Handshake is an online career information system. Resources include the ability to make career counseling appointments, access to internship and full-time opportunities, and registration for career-related events and fairs. Handshake also allows access to On-Campus Recruiting (OCR) opportunities.
- **Wellfound (Formerly AngelList):** Wellfound is a useful platform for anyone looking to get a job at a startup. It is just a three-step process: create a free profile showcasing your experience and skills, browse jobs and select the companies you are interested in, and wait for an email saying that that company has also said yes to you.
- **Indeed:** Indeed is a free service to job seekers, where you can upload a resume, create job alert emails, search for jobs, save them and apply to them directly.
- **Glassdoor:** Glassdoor gets its internship and job listings from several sources, including company websites, partnerships with job boards, and directly from employers. But its main attraction is that it offers an instant way to search for salaries, company reviews, and descriptions of job interviews.

- **PitzerConnect:** PitzerConnect is an online platform that allows you to network with other Pitzer students.

What is a general recruitment process like in Tech?

After you have researched which companies offer the type of opportunity you are looking for and selected the ones that interest you most, the first step is usually to complete an application form. In this form, you will share your resume, sometimes a cover letter, and of course some general information. Include links that provide details about yourself, such as LinkedIn or a personal website, and describe any relevant tech projects you have worked on, whether for Pitzer courses, community organizations, or nonprofits. For technical roles, you may be required to complete a coding exercise before a recruiter reviews your application.

If recruiters like your application and think you are a good fit for the company, they will schedule a series of interviews with you, the number varies by position and company. After you have passed the interviews, you may receive an offer. It is up to you to accept or reject that offer.

How can Career Services help me in this process?

We are here for you! Our office can help you at every level of your application process. From crafting the perfect tech resume to preparing for interviews and negotiating your offer, here are some of the things we can help you with during 1-1 advising sessions:

- Resume and Cover Letter Reviews
- Career Planning Discussions
- Job and Internship Search Advising
- Professional Networking Advising
- Practice Interviews in our office, by phone, by online (Zoom, Skype, etc)
- Job Negotiation Advising
- Business Etiquette Training