



Navigating Your IT Career at a National Laboratory

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Be your own best career advocate!

Let your supervisor know about your lofty career goals, diversify your skillset, and try for positions that feel slightly out of reach.

ADVICE FOR CAREER GROWTH

- Take risks
- Accept varied opportunities
- Cultivate relationships
- Volunteer to help
- Build a reputation for delivering
- Take on research projects
- Communicate lofty goals
- Diversify your skillset
- Set goals, create a plan
- Seek out a mentor
- Keep skills up to date
- Lean into harder problems
- Keep learning your profession and workplace
- Leave a position better than you found it



COLLEGE DEGREES AND TECHNICAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Degrees are important but not necessarily required
- More flexibility with IT college degrees and schools than other fields
- Lab may pay for you to take courses and/or earn degrees and certifications
- Certifications reflect pursuit of expertise for particular technology or approach
- Diversify your skills beyond technical acumen
- Experience in business, research, operations, and customer service are also valued
- Technology changes quickly – staying current on industry trends can make you a subject matter expert

NUANCES ABOUT HIRING PROCESSES

- Longer lead times than corporate world
- Drug testing and clearances delay start dates
- Security clearances may help offset skills deficiencies
- Working to streamline hiring and enrich onboarding process
- Align your resume and cover letter with desired position
- Opportunities to advance internally and train on-the-job



IT Professionals from the Weapons & Complex Integration (WCI) IT Team

SAMPLING OF IT POSITIONS

- Automation engineer
- Business analyst
- Chief information officer
- Chief technology officer
- Communications specialist
- Computer technician
- Customer service agent
- Cyber security
- Data center operations
- Data scientist
- Database administrator
- Network engineer
- Project manager
- Quality assurance
- Service manager
- Software developer
- Solutions architect
- Storage engineer
- Systems administrator
- Technical lead
- Virtualization engineer
- Web designer

DIFFERENTIATORS BETWEEN LABS AND CORPORATE WORLD

- Decentralized resume review means you can apply for multiple jobs on different teams concurrently
- National security and courageous innovation focus, not bottom line
- Heightened physical and cyber security focus
- Opportunity to work with advanced technology
- Job security (government jobs are usually more secure)
- Security and approval constraints can slow down Labs



IT Professionals volunteering at Expanding Your Horizons event