

Zainab Khan  
What is your Dream Job?

I prefer creating and working with other people. I would rather work with people rather than things because it can give you a new perspective. A Software Developer works with both things (computers, programs) and people (other engineers). I am willing to invest however much money as it takes. I plan to get funding from scholarships and student loans. My dream college is UCLA. A program they offer that can train me for this career is Computer Science. Out-of-state tuition costs for UCLA is \$42,218 per year and is a four-year program. UTD offers a four-year CS program and in-state tuition is \$13,034. Northland Pioneer College offers a two-year Web/Software Development program and out-of-state tuition is \$8,610. Once I have achieved my goals I hope to live financially free and in control of my career. I would like to live in the city in a luxury apartment with a sports car or Tesla. I would like to buy my parent's a house that I will frequent. If I get married and have kids, I would like to be financially stable and ready. Based on a median salary for this career and location in DFW, I should have the financial backing to support my desired lifestyle. Some challenges include figuring out exactly what to focus on, job competition, and keeping up with rapid technology advancement. I plan on exploring internships, making time to learn new things, and explore personal projects to counter these potential hardships. I would be willing to spend around half of my monthly time traveling despite the job not requiring much travel. If I was required to relocate I might, but I would prefer to stay in the US and only visit other countries. I would like to work in DFW or Austin. Dallas is slowly becoming more of a tech hub so I think it will work out. Software Engineers are found everywhere in the country! WORK- 33% FUN- 10% FAMILY- 24% SLEEP- 33% . Challenges I may face obtaining my dream job could be staying persistent learning code, focusing on school, and not overworking myself. Two things I could do now to overcome these challenges is to do things I find fun (rather than forced work) and learn code at the same time. I can practice college-ready skills such as time management, networking, critical thinking, and problem solving. Other jobs related to my skills, interests, and values are Software Project Management or something in Education. Some companies that hire software engineers are Microsoft, Google, Lockheed Martin, Apple, and Amazon. It is recommended to pursue the STEM endorsement in high school. After I land my dream job, I plan to move to project management or create my own startup. College programs that will build off of my high school education would be any university that accepts AP/ Dual-Credit courses. My duties will change in that I will be on the management side of things which may include more communication, leadership roles, and debugging/editing code rather than producing it.