

# Job Search Strategy

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## 1. Objective

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Secure a co-op role as a Software Engineer, Full Stack Developer, or ML/AI Engineer in Seattle that leverages my 7+ years of enterprise software experience and current MS CS studies at Northeastern. I aim to contribute meaningfully from day one while deepening my skills in machine learning, distributed systems, and modern full-stack development.

## 2. Target Roles

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headerbg Role	Priority	Relevant Experience
Software Engineer (SDE)	High	7+ yrs enterprise systems, Apex, Java, Python
lightgray Full Stack Developer	High	Next.js, React, Node.js, PostgreSQL, Tauri
ML / AI Engineer	High	GNN systems, PyTorch, scikit-learn, CS 6140

## 3. Target Companies

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Open to all industries. Priority companies in Seattle and the surrounding area:

headerbg Tier	Companies
Tier 1 — Dream	Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Salesforce, Meta
lightgray Tier 2 — Strong Fit	Tableau, Zillow, Expedia, Redfin, Convoy, Outreach
Tier 3 — Pipeline	Mid-size SaaS, Fintech, Healthcare Tech, Startups

## 4. Key Differentiators

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- 7+ years of professional enterprise software experience with architect-level Salesforce certifications (17+ credentials)
- Hands-on ML experience: built TC-LightGCN, a GNN recommendation system outperforming baseline for low-activity users
- Builder mindset: developed Decidr Code, an AI-native project management tool handling the full development lifecycle end to end
- Hackathon experience: competed at Stanford TreeHacks 2026, building C3 (Climate Career Compass) in 36 hours

- Strong academic performance: 4.0 GPA in MS CS at Northeastern University
- Full-stack proficiency: Next.js, React, Python, Java, PostgreSQL, Tauri, Firebase

## 5. Search Strategy

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### Online Applications

- Apply to 5–10 positions per week via LinkedIn, Handshake, and company career pages
- Tailor resume and cover letter for each application using role-specific keywords
- Track all applications in a spreadsheet with status, date, and follow-up reminders

### Networking & Outreach

- Connect with Northeastern alumni in Seattle via LinkedIn and the NU alumni network
- Attend Seattle-area tech meetups, hackathons, and career fairs
- Cold outreach to recruiters and engineers at target companies with personalized messages
- Leverage existing professional network from 7+ years in the Salesforce ecosystem

### Interview Preparation

- Practice DSA problems daily on LeetCode (focus: arrays, graphs, dynamic programming)
- Prepare system design answers for distributed systems and scalable architecture
- Prepare STAR-format behavioral stories aligned to Amazon Leadership Principles
- Mock interviews with peers and use resources from Northeastern Career Development

## 6. Timeline

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Phase	Timeframe	Goal
Research & Prep	Weeks 1–2	Finalize resume, LinkedIn, e-Portfolio, company list
Active Applications	Weeks 3–8	Apply to 40–60 positions, begin outreach
Interviews	Weeks 6–12	Phone screens, technical rounds, onsite/virtual finals
Offer & Decision	Weeks 10–14	Evaluate offers, negotiate, confirm placement

## 7. Success Metrics

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- Minimum 40 applications submitted within 8 weeks

- At least 2 technical phone screens per week during active search
  - At least 1 final-round interview within 10 weeks
  - Co-op offer secured before the Northeastern deadline
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