Careers at a Tech Company

Many people work at a tech company outside of STEM based careers. While they may not have a degree in a STEM field, they need some knowledge of STEM to work alongside their counterparts in the engineering and technology areas. Teamwork is a key part to any job and working at a tech company may put you on some very exciting teams.

Career Options

No matter how exciting a product or service is, there are many careers necessary to take it from design to reality. Marketing, Legal Services, Finance, and Communications are just some of the teams working towards a company's success. One of the best parts of working for a tech company is getting to work together to see ideas come to life with your help.

Job Duties

Depending on your career choice, you may help in the beginning stages of a project or at the end bringing a product to market. You might be researching whether the product already exists, or be the person who helps the product gain a patent as a brand new invention. There are so many places where your job will be critical to a successful product.

Employment Outlook

A Liberal Arts degree provides some of the in-demand skills employers desire on their teams. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, critical thinking and communication are as essential as technical training. Many jobs will require a Masters degree, but gaining experience through internships will be invaluable. Liberal Arts graduates may also start at a lower salary than a STEM career (around $45,000 nationally) but gain skills over time that will help earn similar salaries to their STEM counterparts.

What to Do

Think about the things you enjoy and how that could be a job at a tech company.
Do you like to write? Someone writes the copy for the instruction manuals, or the script for the advertising. Maybe you are great at photography; that could mean a career working with product photos or images for a website.

Think about what sort of school you might like: big, small, suburban, or near home. Finally, make sure you have options at the school and can try out a lot of things. Remember to make it fun — we all need to ensure our jobs are exciting and enjoyable.

iRobot Education

Types of Jobs

There is no one perfect job for anyone; nor is there one college major that will perfectly match any job description.

It's up to you to apply your skills and make the job your own. Think about the skills you have as well as those you want to learn, and look for ways you can work at a tech company.

Finance

Are you good with numbers and super organized? You might be great at managing company money, ensuring people stick to a budget, or making sure all the bills get paid.

Some Finance employees also get an MBA and go on to work on Business Strategy or Product Management.

Legal

Do you think you might want to be a lawyer but also love technology? Tech companies can have many different lawyers. Some, such as Intellectual Property or Patent Lawyers, actually started out as engineers. They make sure to protect that inventions aren't copied.

Some are litigators, defending the company when others copy work, or against other claims. There are many options in the legal department.

Human Resources

If you are a people person, this is for you! In Human Resources, you manage all the people-related things at a company. Sometimes that is explaining and managing benefits for employees like healthcare or other perks a company offers like yoga. Or, you might be a recruiter and help find job candidates. There are a lot of ways Human Resources helps out at a company.

Communications

Websites, social media, press releases: these are some of the ways a company communicates. All of those need people behind the scenes writing the messages and then getting them out to the public. In this role, you might even get to talk with TV reporters or find yourself on a movie set if they are using your product!

iRobot Education

Marketing

Even the greatest inventions and products need someone to sell them. That's the job of the Marketing team. From print and web ads to TV commercials, they are in charge.

Marketing also involves analyzing data from product sales and marketing efforts to learn how to improve a product. You may work with the Sales team, the Operations team or many others in a Marketing role.

Sales and Operations

If you are organized and like to work on teams with other people, this could be the career for you. The Sales team are the people who are out discussing available products with other consumers and stores. Without them, no one knows what to buy!

Working in Operations is a lot of logistics. It means making sure the right parts get to the factory to make the product, and that the product gets from the factory to warehouses and stores.

Industrial Design /User Experience (ID/UX)

For a product to succeed, everyone needs to know how to use it. More importantly, they also want to find it easy to use! Plus, everyone wants their product to look exciting and convey a certain image of the brand. Maybe it's sleek, or playful, or elegantly simple.

The ID/UX team does a lot of testing with users and consumers to arrive at a design that is appealing and easy to use. They might design the colors, the symbols on the product or sometimes even come up with a new feature that everyone will want.

Graphic Arts and Photography

With skills like Graphic Arts and Photography, you may find yourself in many roles. Websites all have images, both designed and photographed. Social media, ad campaigns, even internal communications all need some form of design.

With an eye to the company brand and what appeals to a consumer, you may be called on for a number of creative endeavors.