



Kathryn Blackburn

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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Senior Technical Consultant:

My job is about being an expert in my field as clients come to Acorio looking for someone to direct them in best practices, technical sustainability, and world class technical knowledge of the platform we work with. I steer clients through workshops, requirements gathering, and technical story grooming all the way until they go live in their production environments. I'm responsible for the technical consultants on various projects (assigning pieces of work and peer reviewing code). In short, I'm most accountable for the technical solution provided to our clients.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

A consultant needs to be a technical expert, a resourceful contributor that understands where to go to get the best information, and above all else, a clear communicator who can translate the business world into technical requirements and feasibility. I highly recommend exploring 'soft skills' courses/assessments like Strengths Finder, Social

Styles, Crucial Conversations - these are great tools to learn about professional and personal communication. I don't have to have all the answers, but what matters most is that I'm resourceful enough to find the right answers. This requires me to stay sharp on the newest shiny bells and whistles across the various platforms and pieces of technology I use.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Computer Science & Engineering?

Find a mentor and become a sponge - soak up as many valuable opportunities and knowledge tid bits as you can. Mentors are great for giving critical feedback, offering helpful advice and serving as a place where you can ask the 'dumb questions' you may be nervous to ask your boss or manager. A mentor is anyone who can get you out of your comfort zone and introduce you to new peers, while encouraging your growth and development as a technologist/professional. You don't have to formally label the relationship, just try to surround yourself with individuals who are excited to help you grow along your professional journey.

