

Besufekad Desta

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EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University
B.S. in Computer Science | GPA: 3.7

Richmond, VA
Expected: May 2027

COURSEWORK

Data Structures & Algorithms | Software Engineering | Discrete Structures | Computer Organization | Linear Algebra

SKILLS

Languages: Java | Python | JavaScript | PHP | HTML | CSS | Typescript | PostgreSQL | C/C++

Frameworks: Flask | NextJS | React | Node.js | Express.js | Angular | Spring boot

Software: Git | VS Code | IntelliJ | Eclipse | github | Microsoft Office | Excel | WordPress

WORK EXPERIENCE

EcoMed - Hack4Good Hackathon | *VCU Department of Computer Science* Jan 2025 - Present

- Collaborated with a team of three to develop EcoMed, a web application that provides eco-friendly remedies.
- Earned 3rd place at VCU's Hack4Good Hackathon, showcasing innovation in health and sustainability.
- Built using Flask, Python, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, integrating an AI chatbot to suggest health solutions.
- Integrated OpenAI's API with a Flask backend to generate personalized, AI-driven health recommendations.

Computer Science Teaching Assistant | *VCU College of Engineering* Jan 2025 - Present

- Assist 55 students across two sections in understanding core object-oriented programming concepts.
- Provide one-on-one and group support through coding exercises, debugging assistance, and conceptual explanations.
- Collaborate with instructors to enhance course content and improve student learning outcomes.
- Conduct review sessions and develop instructional materials to reinforce key programming principles.

Residential Assistant | *Gladding Residence Center* Jul 2024 - Present

- Oversee a community of 36 residents, ensuring their well-being and building a supportive living environment.
- Developed educational programs focusing on personal development topics such as study skills and time management.
- Organized and executed impactful programs, including the Fall Festival, which attracted over 350 students and connected them to essential campus resources.

PROJECTS

Flash Card Web App Jan 2024

- Developed an interactive flashcard web application using React and useState hooks to manage state efficiently.
- Designed modular React components for creating, editing, and flipping flashcards dynamically.
- Implemented local state management to track user progress and ensure a smooth, real-time experience.
- Strengthened proficiency in React, JavaScript, and front-end development by building this project from scratch.

Balanced Delimiter File Scanner Nov 2024

- Developed a Java program that analyzes HTML files to verify the balance of opening and closing tags.
- Designed and implemented a custom stack data structure to manage the storage of delimiters.

Math Expression Parser Oct 2024

- Designed and implemented a binary tree-based parser in Java to evaluate expressions with an in-order traversal.
- Supported operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division ensuring correct order of operations.

LEADERSHIP

Computer Science Advisory Board, VCU Jan 2025 - Present

Developing Men of Color IT Committee, VCU Aug 2024 - Present

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

National Society of Black Engineers, VCU Aug 2024 - Present

RamDev, VCU Aug 2024 - Present