# Drake Nordenstrom

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## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science** — Minneapolis, MN
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities — **Graduation**: May 2024
College of Liberal Arts — **GPA**: 3.5 - Dean's List Spring 2023

**Relevant Coursework**: Data Structures & Algorithms, Operating Systems, Machine Architecture, Artificial Intelligence, Program Design & Development, Development of Secure Software Systems, Data Modeling and Databases

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Entrust – Shakopee, MN** *Software Development Intern, July 2024 - January 2025*

- Owned the full development lifecycle of an Amazon Lex chatbot for Entrust's Japan market, from design through deployment, resulting in a ~70% decrease in support call volume by improving user interaction and self-service capabilities
- Optimized backend services written in C# with Entity Framework and Microsoft SQL Server, improving data retrieval performance by ~10%
- Served as the sole developer maintaining and extending Maestro, an internally-used website for process automation, owning end-to-end feature development, maintenance, and bug resolution
- Worked directly with business stakeholders to understand internal pain points and prioritize feature requests, bug fixes, and UX improvements that kept automated processes running efficiently
- Sustained a platform critical to cost-saving automation efforts, supporting workflows that save the company significant operational costs by reducing manual labor and turnaround time
- Utilized a full-stack toolset including Angular, JavaScript, C#, Entity Framework, Microsoft SQL Server, PHP, Git, Azure DevOps, and AWS services (Lex, Lambda, CloudWatch) to support feature development, automation, and system monitoring

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

**Job Application Tracker –** github.com/DrakeNordenstrom *2025*

- Developed a full-stack web application using JavaScript with React on the frontend, Node.js and Express.js for the backend, and SQLite for the database
- Implemented comprehensive features including adding, editing, deleting, and searching job applications with fields such as job title, company name, application status, date applied, and notes
- Designed and built an intuitive user interface that displays job entries clearly and supports filtering by status (Applied, Interviewing, Offer, Rejected), improving usability
- Organized the project into a clean, modular structure with separate client (frontend) and server (backend) directories, enhancing maintainability and future scalability

**Genetic Algorithms Performance Analysis for Tetris** *Fall 2023*

- Conducted an in-depth study on the performance of genetic algorithms in the context of optimizing Tetris gameplay, culminating in a comprehensive 11-page report detailing experiment setup, performance metrics, and data-driven conclusions
- Implemented simulation logic and testing frameworks in Python to evaluate the strengths and limitations of algorithmic strategies in iterative gameplay scenarios
- Analyzed the effectiveness of genetic algorithms in optimizing Tetris gameplay strategies, considering factors such as piece placement, line clearing efficiency, and overall game score
- Demonstrated strong research and analytical skills by synthesizing relevant literature on genetics algorithms and Tetris strategies

**Drone Simulation Project** *Fall 2022*

- Collaborated in an Agile/Scrum team to develop a drone scheduling platform featuring a 3D campus map interface built with HTML, allowing users to simulate robotic package pickups
- Implemented a singleton style data collection module in C++ to record and export key event data to a CSV for performance analysis
- Contributed to the design and development of a dynamic scheduling algorithm optimizing drone routes for timely and efficient pickups
- Participated in iterative development cycles with frequent lab-based reviews, adapting to evolving feature requirements and delivering functionality on schedule

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages & Frameworks:** JavaScript, C#, C++, Python, PHP, SQL Server, Entity Framework
**Web Development:** Angular, React, HTML5, CSS3, Tailwind CSS, JSON
**Tools & Platforms:** Git, Azure DevOps, AWS (Lex, Lambda, CloudWatch), GitHub
**Methodologies:** Agile, Scrum, CI/CD, Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Interests:** Bouldering, Hiking, Basketball, Chess