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Hello!

My name is Gabriel, and I am a recent graduate from the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland. Thanks to the knowledge provided by my degree, I believe I have both the technical and soft skills to succeed in this position. I earned a bachelor's degree in Information Science which had an emphasis on information research processes, database design and data analysis, programming, networks and systems architecture, and cybersecurity. The multidisciplinary nature of this major has allowed me to strengthen my versatility and adaptability skills immensely, so I can rise to any challenge.

Within my major, there was an emphasis on group collaboration which has helped me to refine my interpersonal communication skills as demonstrated by effectively working with my peers to bring our projects to life. To develop these skills, I worked on a team of five to develop a technical comprehensive analysis that examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ridership levels of the local transit providers in the Washington Suburban Transit District, consisting of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. We did this by identifying passenger trends during the pandemic as compared to pre-pandemic levels using a variety of tools. We had to effectively communicate our design process as well as understand the technical tools we would be using to gather the information and convey it in a meaningful way.

As briefly mentioned in my resume, I acted as a Data Scientist on a group of four peers in an iSchool-sponsored DataChallenge. Out of a list of data sets we had to pick one that would fit the story we wanted to tell. Our group picked one relating to COVID-19 and had to discuss the possible meaning we could extract from the data. Using Python and the API provided by The University of Maryland and Carnegie Mellon University in collaboration with Facebook Data for Good we custom made CSV files based on various countries or "indicators" that would then be used to plot various graphs showcasing our main hypothesis.

As for networking tasks, I have experience gained from working through TryHackMe paths and INST346: Technologies, Infrastructure and Architecture. As well as currently studying for the CompTIA Network+ and Security+ certification exams through Mike Meyers and Jason Dion. My long-term goal is to work in cybersecurity but as I have very quickly learned networking is at the foundation of it. Therefore, I have broadened my horizon to include gaining networking knowledge through certifications such as the Network+, virtual machine environments, and generally any source of information I can soak in. I have found that my degree has been lacking in hands-on experience, so I decided to build and set up a Windows PC to act as my virtual-based homelab. I have already set up an Active Directory environment as well as configured DHCP and DNS. I used two Windows Server 2019 VMs to act as my Domain Controller and Windows Admin Center, while using a third Windows 10 Enterprise VM to act as any user I register in AD. In the future I plan on connecting several more virtual machines (including vulnerable ones), installing appropriate firewall rules using pfSense, hosting a VPN server using OpenVPN, installing a vulnerability scanner server like Nessus, and a SIEM server like Splunk to help me simulate a real-world environment that I could then attack and defend.

I can bring high energy and genuine passion for the subject due to my enthusiasm for learning and an absolute need to understand networking and cybersecurity beyond CTFs and VMWare or GNS3. I would be a strong asset to the team by using my unique problem-solving and interpersonal skills gained from my diplomatic travels where I learned how to deal with people of all cultures, and my quick learning to use what is taught to me for the betterment of the organization. I would love to schedule an interview at your convenience! Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Sestieri