# Helen G Highwater

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## SUMMARY

Full-stack engineer experienced in React, Node.js, and Rails, with recent hands-on work in applied generative AI (LangChain, LangGraph, RAG pipelines). I am a high agency worker, eager to bring both technical craft and user-centric thinking to a collaborative engineering team.

## TECHNOLOGIES & SKILLS

JavaScript, TypeScript (familiar), React, Redux, Node.js, Express.js, Python, Ruby on Rails, Flask, CSS/SASS, SQL, PostgreSQL, SQLAlchemy, JSON APIs, Git/GitHub

AI/ML Tooling: LangChain, LangGraph, CrewAI, RAG pipelines, OpenAI API, Cursor, Claude Code

## EXPERIENCE

**Software Engineer (Personal Projects & Upskilling)**                                       Jan 2025 – Present
- Completed Purdue Applied Generative AI Specialization (16-week certification), building AI pipelines using LangChain, LangGraph, CrewAI, and RAG architectures
- Built and iterated on personal projects to deepen full-stack skills and stay current with modern AI-assisted development tooling including Cursor and Claude Code
- Attended bootcamp for Python and completed various self-learning online programs

**Junior Software Engineer  |  Next Glass Inc**                                       Aug 2022 – Jan 2023
- Contributed full-stack features to a large-scale SaaS codebase using Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS - shipping code used daily by thousands of users
- Collaborated closely with a small team: reviewed pull requests, participated in sprint planning, paired with senior engineers, and worked directly with a designer on UX improvements
- Gained experience navigating a mature, real-world codebase and balancing new feature development with code quality and maintainability

**Licensing Coordinator  |  Williams Sonoma Inc**                                       Sep 2016 – Sep 2017
- Helped build the WS Licensing department from the ground up, creating new processes cross-functionally and growing licensed partnerships by 30%+, saving the company hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential fines

**Buying & Buying Operations  |  URBN Inc**                                       Oct 2013 – Jul 2016
- Managed purchase orders and merchandise data across production and merchandising systems, ensuring accuracy at scale

## PROJECTS

**PourFolio  |  Python, Flask, React, Redux, Postgres |  Live Site  |  Github**
- Wine/beer cellar tracking app with aging schedule management and tasting note features

**What If Machine  |  JavaScript, HTML, CSS, OpenAI API  |  V1 (2022) Live - Github  |  V2 (2026) Live**
- AI-powered response generator for open-ended "what if" scenarios; first project integrating a production LLM API into a user-facing product  (V1 was hand-made in the early AI days, V2 was one-shotted with Cursor)

**UNTAPPDVintage  |  React/Redux, Ruby on Rails, PostgreSQL, AWS S3  |  Github**
- Single-page app with rich user experience built on React + Rails; integrated AWS S3 for media storage with IAM security controls

**Flip Up  |  MongoDB, Express, React, Node.js  |  Github**
- Full MERN-stack app using Redux and Axios for a unified API access layer; focused on seamless, interactive front-end user flows

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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|---|---|
| Purdue University - Applied Generative AI Specialization | 2025 |
| Hackbright Academy - Software Engineering Fellowship | 2024 |
| App Academy - Full Stack Development Certificate | 2022 |
| Seattle University - BS Business Management | 2010 |

## ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Home brewer, ceramic art & kintsugi, rock & mineral collecting, world travel, PADI Certified Shark Conservation Specialist, skydiving, scuba diving