

James Harper

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Dear Hiring Manager, my name is James Harper and I believe I would be an amazing candidate for the Spacecraft Software Development & Verification Engineer position at Amentum. Ever since I was a kid, I've been fascinated by what lies beyond our own planet, and I knew that I wanted to explore that through the lens of computing. Eight-year-old me couldn't get enough of Neil Degrasse Tyson's Cosmos and my dad's old raspberry pi. So when I eventually joined NASA's Highschool Aerospace Scholars program, and was taught about future careers, suddenly this dream became not only real, but reachable.

I recently graduated from MIT with a Ph.D. in software engineering, with a specialization in Astrophysical Software simulations, which, due to the high amount of simulation and module testing in this job, I believe makes me more than qualified. Moreover, I am already familiar with, and have worked on some existing NASA Spacecraft Software Systems, like TReK, which I helped maintain and develop in the summer of 2026. This development also taught me how to work in a team, and most importantly, how to lead that team. I have also worked on advanced chemistry and hydrodynamical simulations of early planet formation during my Post Doctoral Work at the Nevada Center for astrophysics. In addition to this, I was a linux

Automation Intern at General Dynamics Mission Systems Inc. for 2 years, where I worked with a team of 30+ software engineers under the AGILE development ideology, a key practice needed for this job. I have been programming and working with linux systems since age 4, and are quite familiar with Python, C, and C++, having developed a wide range of personal projects in these languages such as an ASCII 3d rendering engine(which I used to simulate a blackhole) and an AI algorithm to analyze when Jupiter would send radio waves to Earth due to magnetic interference with its moon IO.

Overall, I believe that I would be a perfect candidate for this position due to both my life-long interest and genuine passion for computer science and astrophysics as well as my many qualifications that have helped build skills for the job, which I hope to build further at Amentum. I look forward to hearing from and working with Amentum at JSC!

Sincerely,

James