Zachary Nikkel

Zachary.Nikkel1@gmail.com | Plymouth, MN 55447 | Zacnik.github.io | (618) 593-1639

Professional Summary

AAS Software Development Graduate with hands-on experience in full-stack development, predictive analysis, and application security. Proficient in Python, Java, C#, JavaScript, SQL, and cloud platforms. Strong communicator with leadership and customer service background. Actively pursuing entry-level software development roles.

Education:

B.S. Software Engineering

Arizona State University	Tempe, AZ	Expected May 2027

A.A.S Software Development

Helena College – UM	Helena, MT	2021-2024

Skills:

Technical Skills
- **Languages:** Python, Java, C#, JavaScript
- **Web Frameworks:** Vue.js, React, Node.js
- **Cloud Platforms:** AWS, Microsoft Azure
- **Tools:** Git, Docker, Visual Studio, VS Code, Eclipse
- **Databases:** MySQL, SQL Server, MongoDB
- **Practices:** Agile development, unit testing (JUnit), debugging, version control

Communication & Customer Service
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Skilled in resolving customer issues with professionalism and empathy
- Collaborative team player with experience in fast-paced environments

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Projects & Technical Experience:

Task Management Application

Designed and developed a full-stack web application to streamline task organization and workflow management.
- Technologies: C#, ASP.NET, JavaScript, SQL Server, HTML/CSS
- Implemented user authentication, task prioritization, and deadline tracking features
- Optimized database queries for efficient data retrieval and scalability
- Applied Agile development practices with version control using Git

March Madness Predictive Algorithm

Built a predictive analytics tool to forecast NCAA tournament outcomes based on historical performance data.

- o Technologies: Python, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib
- o Developed custom algorithms to analyze tournament trends and simulate bracket outcomes
- o Automated data scraping, cleaning, and visualization to improve accuracy
- o Achieved approximately 68% prediction accuracy across multiple simulation models

Yahoo Security Breach Case Study

Conducted a detailed analysis of the 2013 Yahoo data breach with emphasis on application security vulnerabilities.

- o Skills Applied: Security research, SQL injection analysis, secure coding principles
- o Identified root causes behind the breach, including improper session management and weak encryption protocols
- o Outlined preventative measures aligned with OWASP Top 10 best practices
- o Gained in-depth understanding of secure software development lifecycles and risk management

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Experience:

Big Dipper Ice Cream   Helena, MT   August 2023 – Present

Ice Cream Production

- o Produce consistent ice cream batches and manage quality control
- o Coordinate & pack orders for 20 wholesale accounts and special events
- o Optimize production flow to minimize machine downtime
- o Sanitize equipment daily and restock display freezers

UPS   Helena, MT   August 2021 – August 2023

Comprehensive Health and Safety Supervisor

- o Promoted from Package Handler January 2022
- o Trained employees in UPS's safety methods and procedures
- o Organized and conducted weekly safety meetings with all employees
- o Reported the Helena Hub's volume and maintained scanner equipment

Keeper of the Green   Helena, MT   August 2018 – August 2021

Compliance Manager

- o Implemented seed-to-sale tracking system to reduce time spent on inventory control
- o Introduced Point-of-Sale system that improved transaction speed and efficiency
- o Trained employees in all standard functions of the business
- o Provided clients with individualized service catered to their needs

Handlebar Coffee Roasters   Santa Barbara, CA   August 2017 – August 2018

Barista

- o   Completed over 200 orders per day with a friendly and professional attitude
- o   Maintained store and equipment cleanliness
- o   Trained other employees on Point-of-Sale system

Bridge Pizza   Helena, MT   June 2016 – July 2017

Delivery Driver

- o   Delivered food in a safe and timely manner
- o   Provided customers with friendly customer service
- o   Assisted kitchen staff with food preparation and clean up

406 Landscapes   Helena, MT   Summers of May 2013 – June 2017

Landscaper

- o   Coordinated irrigation system scheduling and maintenance
- o   Maintained commercial and residential properties
- o   Safely handled and transported heavy equipment

McDonalds   Higginsville, MO   August 2014 – May 2016

Cook & Closer

- o   Prepared high volume food orders quickly and accurately in a fast-paced kitchen
- o   Maintained kitchen cleanliness and followed all food safety standards
- o   Handled changing priorities and large order volumes with speed and accuracy
- o   Closed the kitchen nightly, including cleaning, stocking, and equipment shutdown