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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am a recent graduate who is confident that I am uniquely fit to be a Software Engineer at your company. While I lack prior professional experience, I am a highly adaptable worker and learn very quickly. You will not find a more dedicated, hard working individual. My undergraduate curriculum, unique political science minor, experience as an instructor's aide, and experience as a self employed tutor have given me an abundance of skills that make me an excellent choice. In particular, these experiences have given me strong computer science fundamentals, adaptability, flexibility, strong communication skills, and a breadth of knowledge. These skills would make me an asset in your company.

As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, I gained a breadth of skill in many computer science subfields. I took classes in a wide variety of subjects ranging from Intro to Artificial Intelligence; to Computer Science Pragmatics, which dealt with Git, Makefiles, and similar basic tools; to Programming Languages & Programming Paradigms giving me experience with a wide variety of languages and the theory behind languages; to UI Development; to Software Engineering; to Intro to Computational Linguistics, giving me experience with NLP; to even Intro to Quantum Information Science. Taking such a wide variety of classes has given me a wide breadth of knowledge and taught me how to quickly learn and adapt to a wide variety of roles. Even if these subfields don't cover a specific part of my role, I now have the ability to quickly pick up a new skill set. In addition, in 2018 I received a CIW certification as a JavaScript specialist, making me especially adept in that language. I also have a lot of experience in C++ and Python, and some experience in many more languages as listed on my resume. My current skill set means that I would be very proficient in a front-end role, but I am interested and willing to learn other potential roles, such as back end development. I also am excited to work with A.I. in the future.

Another unique experience during my undergraduate education is that I minored in Political Science. While the skills from that may not be directly applicable to a software engineering ecosystem, it gave me extraordinarily good communication skills. This minor gave me some experience in researching my positions, but more importantly it also gave me a lot of experience in writing strong, persuasive papers on very difficult to communicate subject matters and a fair amount of experience in public speaking. In particular, my writing is so strong that when grading one of my final exams, the professor mentioned my essay being the strongest in the class. This, in tandem with the Computer Science major's typical suite of technical communication courses and my experience as an instructor's Aide, has made me exceptionally adept at communicating, at listening, and supporting others and using emotional intelligence.

During my 6 semesters as an Instructor's Aide at the University of Michigan, I taught EECS 281 Data Structures and Algorithms. This is considered the keystone course for the university's Computer Science program, as it is what gives access to upper level classes, which means it is extremely popular with about 1000 students per semester. EECS 281 is also considered very

difficult so clear communication was key while teaching. My responsibilities as an instructor's aide included holding 4 hours of 1 on 1 office hours with students every week answering conceptual questions and helping to debug projects, proctoring exams, grading exams, writing exam questions, and teaching a 2 hour lecture-style lab for 20-30 students every week. Additionally, I was the leader of the grading team after exams multiple times, occasionally tapped on the day of the exam because the professor knew I could be relied on to quickly and ably take charge. Another leadership position I took is that every semester after my first I mentored a new staff member. This all contributed further to my aforementioned communication and leadership skills. This experience teaching a core class has also led to me developing extremely strong computer science fundamentals. In my final 2 semesters, my average score from anonymous student feedback was a 5.0/5.0 which is well above the university average, with a higher than average response rate as well.

Since ending my tenure as an instructor's aide, I have worked independently as a tutor, leveraging the skills that I had gained. I have gathered 25 different clients with a wide variety of prior computer science experience with a primary focus on late high school and early college. This has given me even more experience in both computer science fundamentals and communication more broadly. Additionally, the outreach necessary in order to gain new clients has helped me develop strong networking skills, and I have developed great flexibility in terms of matching students' particular needs and skill levels.

I'm thankful for your consideration, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or offers. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Austin McCulley