

# Amanda Merlin

Software Engineer | Project Manager

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Software engineer and Project Manager with the ability to pick up new languages and technologies as needed and a penchant for creative problem solving. Prior to being a software engineer, I started my professional career as a Speech Language Pathologist quickly moving into progressive management and leadership roles. I rediscovered a childhood love and curiosity for technology when I started my path for my Assistive Technology Certification.

## Software Development Skills

- Debugging, JavaScript, Node.js, React, Express, Redux, RESTful API, PostgreSQL, Sequelize, Bootstrap, Flexbox, AWS, React Native, HTML, CSS

## Education

DigitalCrafts | Certificate in Software Engineering | Atlanta, GA January 2021 – July 2021

- Software engineering training program covering full-stack development including, but not limited to JavaScript, including an emphasis on cutting-edge frameworks like React/Redux and server-side technologies including Node.js, Express, and PostgreSQL.

The University of Pittsburgh | Certificate in Assistive Technology | Pittsburgh, PA August 2018 – May 2019

The University of Central Florida | M.A. Communication Science and Disorders | Orlando, FL August 2008 – Dec 2010

The University of Central Florida | B.A. Communication Science and Disorders | Orlando, FL January 2006 – Dec 2007

Seminole Community College | A.A. Liberal Arts | Sanford, FL January 2004 – Dec 2005

Jamestown Community College | A.S. Math & Science | Jamestown, NY September 1998 – May 1999

## Software Development Portfolio

Mixafy | [mixafy.herokuapp.com](https://mixafy.herokuapp.com) | [github.com/amerlinoutnabout/Mixafy/tree/main/Mixafy](https://github.com/amerlinoutnabout/Mixafy/tree/main/Mixafy) May 2021

- Member of a 2-person development team building a back-end focused full stack app that takes genres of music from spotify to generate custom playlists for users.
- Primary responsibilities included project planning, database development, and front-end debugging.
- Learned PostgreSQL and ElephantSQL as well as solidified understanding of database structures. Worked with Express and Sequelize.

Cocktails & Quotes | [sad-snyder-9636a4.netlify.app](https://sad-snyder-9636a4.netlify.app) | [github.com/amerlinoutnabout/Front\\_End\\_Project\\_Final](https://github.com/amerlinoutnabout/Front_End_Project_Final) Feb 2021

- Member of a 3-person development team building a front-end website using API calls to two different API's to retrieve data. Users can search for cocktail recipes and then play a drinking game.
- Responsibilities included designing and assembling a fully mobile-responsive spinner for the game, debugging front-end issues.
- Built with HTML, CSS, JavaScript

## Professional Work Experience

Speech Language Pathologist, AAC Specialist | Connections Academy | Tumwater, WA Jan 2020 – Present

- Take and analyze ongoing data to make data driven therapeutic decisions regarding treatment goals.
- Collaborate with other disciplines to create individualized education plans that will allow students to integrate and access grade level curriculum materials.
- Provide ongoing training and education regarding current research and best practices for Neurodiverse populations

Speech Language Pathologist, Acute Care | Providence St. Peter's Hospital | Olympia, WA March 2015 – Present

- Diagnose and treat adult inpatients with a variety of communication and swallowing disorders including but not limited to: apraxia, aphasia, dysarthria, TBI, voice disorders, neurological impairment, head and neck cancer, and neurodegenerative disease processes.
- Use standardized data collection and tests including administering and interpreting modified barium swallow studies to make data driven decisions.
- Collaboration with multidisciplinary medical teams, including Palliative Care to make end of life decisions and other critical care medical decisions based on collected and synthesized data.

Owner | Artful Expressions Speech Therapy and Voice Training | Olympia, WA June 2017 – March 2020

- Developed and facilitated educational and training workshops designed for parents and professionals. Workshops were in-person and online including a webinar for the New Jersey Autism Center for Excellence and an original online training for parents and caregivers of new AAC users. Workshops topics included: Neurodiversity, universal design, inclusion and accommodations, and gender affirming voice integration methodologies.

- Spearheaded fundraising efforts within the community for summertime and school-year programming designed for underserved neurodivergent youth. Successful results enabled 50% of the clinic population served to attend at no cost.
- Developed and ran successful social media marketing campaigns increasing web traffic 125% and referrals to practice over time.

Speech Language Pathologist, AAC Specialist | Yelm Community Schools | Yelm, WA Sept 2015 – June 2017

- Developed functional communication program across four self-contained classrooms spanning K-8th grade. These students had not had a consistent SLP in years. I trained all staff in AAC and modeling and helped get students started with assistive technology and AAC.

Speech Language Pathologist, Acute Care | Providence St. Peter's Hospital | Olympia, WA March 2015 – Present

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Director of Rehabilitation | Montesano SNF | Summit Pacific Medical Center | Montesano, WA April 2014 – August 2015

- Helped secure an outside contract with a local hospital growing the rehabilitation program across two centers and helping set up inpatient and outpatient services in the underserved rural community.
- Collaborated with hospital administration to develop new rehabilitation programming and budgets.
- Optimized budget to turn negative monthly revenue generated into positive revenue during time served as well as converting staff from contract to permanent ensuring continuity of care and program fidelity.

Director of Rehabilitation | Fir Lane Health and Rehabilitation | Shelton, WA March 2014 – March 2015

- Managed rehabilitation staff of 15 at a 131 bed facility as well as responsible for growing the outpatient therapy program.
- Increased revenue generated from the therapy department within 4 months turning the entire facility from operating at a deficit to consistently operating with profit.
- Collaboration with the multidisciplinary leadership team to rebuild broken relationships between departments within the building, as well as recruiting and retaining a permanent therapy staff.

Interim Director of Rehab | Puget Sound Healthcare | Olympia, WA October 2012 – March 2014

- Hired as a staff SLP in April of 2012, quickly promoted to DOR in training.
- Therapy representative at all multidisciplinary patient planning meetings for discharge and end of life planning.