

Dear Hiring Manager,

My dad would always joke around with me that I shouldn't get a driver's license because self-driving cars were on the horizon, so I got my license as soon as I could upon turning 16. I was excited to drive, and have always been a car enthusiast. However, although I love driving, I've seen how beneficial self-driving cars could be for efficiency and safety. Solving this problem of making self-driving cars viable for everyday use is engaging, and I'd love to contribute as a software engineering intern. I'm a third-year student at UC Davis pursuing a double major in computer science and statistics (on the machine learning track). With my proven experience in full-stack web development, among other areas, I am eager to join Waymo's team.

During my internship at Apple, I had the opportunity to work on the Shazam team, where I independently developed macOS Music Recognition for Control Center, along with ShazamKit features for millions of users. In addition, I also began a digital signal processing research project, meticulously documenting my work and setting the foundation for a later feature that Shazam is building out. This internship not only sharpened my Swift programming skills but also gave me a deep appreciation of the technical aspects of music information retrieval, as well as software development practices for a client-facing team.

My current roles at HackDavis and #include have provided me with valuable experience in leadership and full-stack web development, leading technical workshops and building secure and scalable applications. I've worked extensively with Next.js as my full-stack framework, combined with both SQL and NoSQL databases, with GraphQL and REST APIs. These roles have also improved my system design skills, making me well-equipped to learn about and contribute to Waymo's scalable architecture.

In addition, I am highly curious and eager to explore new technologies. For example, when augmented reality came back into the forefront with Apple's Vision Pro, I experimented with ARKit and RealityKit to learn about spatial computing. I've applied this curiosity to all my projects, having developed a social media app for sharing Shazamed songs and a shopping list app utilizing computer vision to scan price tags. When I find a new technology I'm fascinated by, I take my time exploring it and working my way through the problem-solving process. I'm currently taking a statistical learning course, which is very theoretical, but now I am looking into the implementation of these machine learning techniques in Python.

I am confident that my background in full-stack web development and insatiable desire to learn make me a strong candidate for the software engineering internship at Waymo. I am eager to contribute my skills and learn from industry leaders while making meaningful contributions to the future of autonomous driving technology. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to the success of your team further.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Wong