**Carson Shoupe**

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to be considered for a position as a junior software developer. While I am trained as an analytic philosopher and teacher, I have decided to transition to a career in computer science. Since that decision early this year, I have dedicated my free time to teaching myself the skills to be a successful software developer. I completed MIT’s *Introduction to Computer Science and Programming* open-courseware class taught in Python, worked through an introductory C++ textbook, and read the entirety of *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java* by Goodrich and Tamassia, completing relevant exercises to practice implementing newly learned abstract data types. I recently familiarized myself with Git, and so I have uploaded many of my Java exercises on Github (my personal Github link is included on my resume).

This fall, I enrolled in a Computer Science and Software Development Certificate Program at Forsyth Tech Community College. While my current classes – *Introduction to Programming Logic* and *Database, Computer Programming, and the Web* – are refreshers of my previous reading, I enrolled to ensure I had a firm foundational knowledge of important computer science concepts. My goal first and foremost is to find a development job and begin my career.

In the coming months, my short-term goals are to continue to study foundational texts in computer science literature and contribute to a collaborative, open-source project. I am currently reading sections of *Operating System Concepts* by Silbertschatz, Galvin, and Gagne, and next, I plan to familiarize myself with established object-oriented terminology in *Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software* by Gamma, Helm, Johnson, and Vlissides.

While I have no formal training in computer science, I believe I would make an excellent fit at this company. My self-motivated study speaks to my competence as a self-disciplined quick learner with an excellent work ethic. Further, I am passionate about software development and enthusiastic about opportunities to contribute in a development setting. I have enclosed my resume for your review, and I look forward to further discussion regarding this position. If you have any questions or would like to schedule an interview, please contact me at (704) 726-3988 or at carson.shoupe@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

**Carson Shoupe**