**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 am actively transiting to a career in computer science. Since that decision early this year, I have dedicated my time to teaching myself the skills to be a successful software developer. I completed MIT’s *Introduction to Computer Science and Programming* taught in Python and worked through an introductory C++ textbook. I read the entirety of *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java* by Goodrich and Tamassia and completed relevant exercises to practice implementing newly learned abstract data types. I have uploaded many of my Java exercises to Github. I am a contributor to TEAMMATES, open-source software for managing student/instructor correspondence in higher education, and currently, I am working on a web application, MySwoleMate, to develop my skills with C#, SQL, and the .NET framework.

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, make further contributions to TEAMMATES, and continue to study C#, SQL, and .NET. 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 do not have a bachelor’s degree in computer science, my master’s degree and self-motivated study speak to my competence as a self-disciplined quick learner with an excellent work ethic. 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**