

## Enhanced Biography Essay

Hi! I'm Charlee and I am currently completing my B.S. in Information Science with a concentration in Web Development Technologies at the University of South Florida. I specialize in building responsive, accessible, and user-focused web applications using modern technologies. I also have experience in UI/UX design and IT, showcasing my versatility as someone who can approach projects from a technical and creative perspective. My passion lies in technology, music, and games, and I do my best to connect those interests with the ways I learn, build, and collaborate.

To know me more personally, I immigrated from the Philippines to the United States at age 10. I lived in Palm Beach County, FL up until college where I moved to Tampa. I have always been an individual that loves technology, music, and games. If I'm not programming, designing, or reading up on technology, you can find me making music of all types, collecting records, or playing video games such as Apex Legends or Dungeon Defenders. These hobbies keep me creative and help me think about how entertainment and technology overlap in unique ways.

My professional experiences have helped me develop both technical expertise and valuable soft skills. At Mathnasium, I worked with K-12 students on subjects ranging from algebra, geometry, and calculus. Teaching math requires patience, attentiveness, and strong communication skills since I needed to explain complex topics in a way students could understand. I also regularly spoke with parents about their children's progress, which strengthened my ability to communicate professionally. My experiences at this job taught me to be detail-oriented and empathetic which are qualities that I know will continue to be useful in my future.

At theCoderSchool, I had the opportunity to work with K-12 students in a project-based learning environment. I guided them through coding projects using Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React and Lua. This role expanded my hands-on teaching experience along with my technical skills. I had to plan projects that matched students' ideas and interests, which meant I had to think creatively and think which programming languages were fit for their wants, needs, and skills. I also worked closely with other coaches, doing

code handoffs through GitHub and Replit. This collaboration helped me learn new concepts quickly while expanding my teamwork skills in a software development environment.

I also gained startup experience at CODI, a small company focused on building a gamified app that teaches programming, similar to Duolingo. There, I expanded my UI/UX design skills by creating typography systems, color palettes, and transitions in Figma, and then building out the designs in React. I also contributed to the software development cycle by using Trello for task management and Confluence for documentation. This experience gave me a deeper appreciation towards design and expanded my technical skills in programming while also emphasizing how important it is to balance creativity, teamwork, and organization.

Currently, I work at Tillys, where I continue to develop my customer-service and communication skills. I enjoy this job because it allows me to take my mind off academics while still building useful skills. I get to interact with people from all different backgrounds and it also continues to expand my skills in communication and adapting to a fast working environment. The interactions I have at this job give me empathy and good communication which I find will be essential to my future career as well.

In the future, I plan to pursue careers in software development, web development and design, or IT. My academic background and professional experiences have prepared me for these roles by giving me the technical and soft skills they require. I have a strong foundation in programming, web technologies, and design, along with communication, teamwork, and adaptability. I am also committed to continuous growth by continuing to create more programming projects, UI/UX case studies, and planning to earn certifications such as CompTIA A+ and Network+ to strengthen my technical knowledge (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023). What excites me most about these career paths is the opportunity to create technology that is accessible, useful, and engaging. Software and web development allow me to combine creativity with problem-solving, while IT gives me a chance to support and maintain the systems that make technology work, while being able

to support and communicate with other people. No matter what path I take, I want to be part of projects and organizations that improve how people interact with technology.

## References

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018, April 13). *Software Developers : Occupational Outlook*

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<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/web-developers.htm#tab-1>