

Allstate Prescreen Form Required Questions

What about this role do you find most interesting?

What I find most interesting about this role is the "collaborative paired coding environment" in which Allstate's team operates daily. There is saying "What one programmer can do in one month, two programmers can do in two months". While I know this saying is meant to be humorous there is a certain complexity you add to a project by having more people associated with it.

In general I love working in a fast paced, agile environment with daily tasks and sprints, and an open field for collaboration and communication. This opportunity sounds like an amazing experience to continue building my career!

Why are you looking to change roles?

Coming from a small startup company of two developers, I am really looking for the next thing to continue learning and growing as a full stack developer. What Allstate can offer me is that enterprise, large company, experience that I am looking for. I am definitely looking forward to building myself into a Java Enterprise developer.

How has your previous experience prepared you for this role?

My past experience at QwikCut has given me the chance to experiment with different solutions from the MEAN stack (MongoDB, Express, Angular, Nodejs), to React Native with Redux, to a Java 8 RESTful API with Spark. All these have let me learn the advantages and disadvantages of each solution and I have learnt to be flexible in my environment and developed a knack for quickly picking up a new ecosystem.

In my time there, I have also developed a powerful understanding of design principles through the mistakes I have made and research I have done along the way. All of these together have let me grow into the developer that I am today; which I am very grateful for.

Describe your ideal working environment. (Day in the life / cultural expectations)

An ideal working environment would be a respectful ecosystem where everyone understands the work they need to do and the time it takes to complete. I think this is important because if everyone is understanding the seriousness of the work it allows for time in between to be more relaxed.

For example, not distracting peers is important in coding. There are definitely times while coding when you're "in the zone" and a small distraction would take out of that process. If people can respect that process then it allows for a more relaxed environment. There is definitely time for hard work and time for building connections with peers. It all comes down to balance and getting tasks done.

What do you do to stay relevant in your professional life? *(We Develop Each Other)*

In my free time I enjoy learning new languages and developing hobby projects. I try to stay active on GitHub and keep up-to date with the latest technologies and blogs. Right now I am currently working on learning Golang and have developed a websockets server with rooms kind of like Socket.IO. I did this in order to allow for multiplayer features on a prototype game I am creating in Unity3D. I also have been following Deno (the new Node.js as people are saying) which seems like a very promising project. My passions and hobbies are coding so I am always learning new tools to stay relevant in my professional life.

Describe a time you worked with others to creatively solve a problem. *(We Continuously Get Better)*

In my time at QwikCut we worked with a few third-party companies that wanted to integrate our services together. Specifically, we built out a backend API that allowed us to share and receive data between services. This was an interesting experience because we had to refactor some of the code base to work with different APIs. Also working in a small team of two developers, there was a constant flow of communication and discussion on the best ways to solve problems. There were three major projects we undertook and we worked together to figure out the best creative solution to handle each.

At ATSV, we often must make changes when the way we've been doing things is no longer effective. Describe a time when you had to change your approach or method of work. *(We Value Agility with Purpose)*

When I undertook the React Native project I was introduced to a framework that was very different from Angular. Learning React itself took some developer time away in order to better understand how to begin the project. During that I went into full on learning mode and started researching React in off-work time hours. It was an interesting time because I felt like I had nothing to contribute for about a week while undergoing this learning process. The owner and other developers were both understanding and in the end I came out with a greater understanding of the React Native framework. The other developer was able to jump right in with tasks and the project was then completed within our estimated timeline.

Describe a situation where you worked to resolve a conflict with a co-worker(s). *(We Value Each Other)*

There were times while at QwikCut when we the developers had completely different opinions of how a User Interface should operate. These conflicts didn't happen often but they did put a halt on the task. We resolved most of the issues by integrating a mix of both opinions and I believe that collaboration made for a better product. Towards the end of my time there we had hired a graphics designer in order to avoid situations as mentioned above and went with whatever they created or had said was best. What I took out of that situation was that you have to respect other people's opinions and have to collaborate with people to create the best solution for a task.