



School of EECS

Oregon State University
1148 Kelley Engineering Center
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

P 541-737-3617

F 541-737-1300

oregonstate.edu

March 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of Gregory Blood. Gregory has been a student in four Computer Science courses I taught: Data Structures in Fall 2018, Web Development in spring 2019, Advanced Web Development in winter 2020, and Mobile Software Development in winter 2020. In addition, he is currently enrolled in my Cloud Application Development course in spring 2021. Other than Data Structures, which is a foundational CS course that contains elements of CS theory and its application, the other courses Gregory has taken with me have all involved implementing various pieces of a modern web-stack application.

In Web Development, Gregory learned the fundamentals of building a full-stack web application. He continued this exploration in Advanced Web Development, where he learned to use more modern technologies for creating web applications (e.g. React and its ecosystem of supporting technologies and GraphQL). By the end of Advanced Web Development, Gregory was able to write from scratch a fairly sophisticated single-page React application that allowed users to create and manage Spotify playlists using the Spotify API. This is an advanced accomplishment for a college student, since it requires understanding and combining many advanced technologies, even OAuth 2, which is required to authenticate with the Spotify API. This application was well implemented and demonstrated excellent programming and application design skills.

Similarly, in Mobile Software Development, Gregory learned to implement an Android application of intermediate complexity using modern Android development techniques and architecture components. To cap off this course, he implemented from scratch a very nice app for browsing statistics for the game League of Legends, fetched from the Riot Games API. Again, Gregory's implementation was well-designed and demonstrated solid programming skills.

The goal of these courses, as with Cloud Application Development, which Gregory is currently taking with me, is to provide students with the skills needed to perform well in an entry-level position as a web, mobile, or full-stack developer, and I think Gregory demonstrated through his work in these courses that he is more than prepared for such a role. His programming and application design skills would translate to many other development domains, as well.

In addition to teaching Gregory in these courses, I've also served as his supervisor in his job as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant (ULA) with the School of EECS at Oregon State University. Specifically, Gregory was a ULA under my supervision for the course Data Structures in fall 2019 and fall 2020 and for the course Web Development in spring 2020. He is slated to be a ULA again with me for Web Development this upcoming spring term. Very few of the undergraduates in our program are selected as ULAs, so it's a position of some honor and is only offered to strong students. Gregory has done an excellent job in this role. I have confidently trusted Gregory to hold office hours in which he offered help to students in the course who need it, to conduct in-person grading demonstrations and fairly grade students' work, to lead weekly recitation sections of approximately 30 students, to individually proctor and grade quizzes, and to attend weekly meetings. Throughout all of this work, Gregory consistently demonstrated the clear ability to work independently, without extremely close oversight, and to act with responsibility and integrity. He was a great asset to the courses in which he served as a ULA.

In short, Gregory is a very good student with strong full-stack development skills, and the proven ability to contribute meaningfully towards the goals of an organization while working without close supervision. Perhaps more importantly, I've always enjoyed the chances I've gotten to work and interact with Gregory. He has always been respectful, friendly, and easy-going. Indeed, I think Gregory would be a wonderful fit on any team as both a solid contributor and a great teammate.

If there is any additional information I can provide in assistance of Gregory, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Robin W. Hess, PhD
Instructor, Computer Science
Oregon State University
robin.hess@oregonstate.edu
541-737-2867