

Hello,

First off, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read over my application for the Software Developer Intern position at Penrod. I am guessing that if you have looked through my resume that you may be a little confused as to why I am applying to an internship given my professional background in chemical engineering. About one year ago, I decided to dive into the world of software development by entering into Oregon State University's post-baccalaureate computer science degree program. This program is designed for people who have already obtained a bachelor's degree and are looking to earn a second bachelor's degree in computer science. The program is 100% online, which allows me to work full time in Milwaukee while studying. Hopefully I will have the chance to explain the myriad reasons I have decided to change my career in an interview, but those reasons distill down to software engineering allowing my professional reach to improve the lives of others in a much greater capacity than process engineering ever will. As long as I have a computer at my disposal, the possibilities seem to be truly endless which is very inspiring to me.

I have been in the OSU program for 1 year now and have completed 5/16 required courses all while working full time as a chemical engineer. The courses include introductory and advanced object oriented programming (C++), discrete math, assembly language (MASM), and data structures (C). I will be taking analysis of algorithms and web development this coming Fall. I have also taught myself a little bit of SQL and VBA to help me out in my current job. I am also the resident Business Intelligence expert in my department and frequently help coworkers by authoring custom BI reports for them.

I have participated in many other activities to enhance my learning and exposure to the field including local meetups and two hackathons. One hackathon was online through OSU and another was right here in Milwaukee. This Spring I participated in the Hack-a-Pipeline Hackathon where my team of amazing female developers created an Alexa Skill for the City of Milwaukee in just one weekend. Needless to say, that weekend left me in complete awe and only made me want to dive into programming with that much more zeal and determination.

With that being said, I feel that I am ready for this internship with Penrod. I strongly believe that the best learning is in doing, so I want to **do** what it takes to be an effective and efficient software developer for a strong product. I am ready to put in the hard work to grow my skills and deliver projects that are worthwhile for the company. Specifically I want to do this with Penrod. What struck me about Penrod is that the website has a page dedicated to its people with real profiles and interests. After reading through these profiles, I get the sense that this company really fosters and promotes a team-oriented culture which is something that I thrive in. What's more impressive to me is the obvious investment into your people's skills and professional development.

I know that I am certainly an unconventional candidate, however, I hope that you will see that uniqueness as a strength and an asset as I do. I really hope to hear from Penrod soon, and if I don't hear back you can bet that I will be applying again next year.

Sincerely,

Jessica Albert (847-219-6252)