Fast & Friends Design Studio
Clovis, CA

Dear Potential Interns:

At Fast & Friends Design Studio, we are looking for creative, energetic applicants to serve as entry-level programming interns. Such interns should be seeking real world experience in the technology field. Ideal candidates will have some experience using CSS, HTML, and JavaScript. Moreover, proven soft skills and experience working with teams to generate ideas, propose ideas, and code client-based websites are desired. Finally, interns should have excellent verbal and written communication skills.

After reviewing your resume, the hiring team at Fast & Friends Design Studio requests an interview with you for our open entry-level programming internship program. We will contact you in the near future to schedule an interview time.

To best prepare for the interview, please write responses to our interview questions ahead of time.

Sincerely,
Fast & Friends Design Studio Hiring team

Job Title: Entry-level programming intern
Company: Fast and Friends Design Studio

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES Restate the question in the form of a sentence (in some way) to begin most responses.
Tell me about yourself.	My name is Nathan Maldonado, and I am the oldest of three boys. I am also a first-generation American and college student. My brothers, I would say, are my most significant support system in my academic, professional, and personal life. I highly value my community and would hope to expand that connection of reliability and affirmation to Fast & Friends. However, for more of a background on me, I lived in Southern California for most of my life, and I only recently moved to Fresno because my father had a work opportunity available to him. I now attend Clovis North High School and will graduate as valedictorian. After high school, like I was saying, I am going to college, and I have chosen to attend Duke University because they offer me the opportunity to study Computer Science in addition to Data Science, Economics, or Linguistics through their dual-degree program, but I have not yet chosen which additional program I will be pursuing in addition to Computer Science.
What are your skills and/or qualifications for an entry-level	I feel my academic experience in programming gives me an excellent background in the programming skills that will be required of me. As I was earlier saying, I have chosen to study Computer Science once I matriculate at

programming position at Fast and Friends?	Duke, yet I only made this decision after taking almost every Computer Science course available to me in my district. I feel I thrive with new languages and challenges, so I have taken coursework in JavaScript, Java, Python, and C++. Additionally, at the Clovis North Coding Club, I act as a Python tutor for junior high and high school students. Upon completing all the computer science courses available to me, I looked to the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, a specialized school where I spent three hours developing websites and researching user experience in a group environment. As a result, I was prompted to take Web Development, where I studied how to create websites in teams and independently while utilizing CSS, HTML, and JavaScript.
Do you prefer working independently or on a team? Why?	I feel I am comfortable working in either situation, yet I believe that I have been instructed to think that projects are supposed to be completed on an individual basis at school. This has given me the ability to become more independent when needed. Still, my time at the Center for Advanced Research and Technology has helped me perform more efficiently as a team. As a result of my experiences from both CART and at my traditional school, I am comfortable working on collaborative and independent projects. I prefer, still, to collaborate with other people because multiple minds on one project will almost always produce better results, which I recognize to be the mindset at Fast & Friends.
Tell us about a project or situation that illustrates your ability to work with others.	My most significant professional achievement and one that I feel illustrates my ability to work with others was at NASA's design and modeling competition at Fresno State. I was tasked with leading a team of four students to design a toolbox for standard devices that astronauts would need in space. We eventually earned a victory, but this was only after our dedicated and combined efforts. I recognized that each person on our team was best suited for specific tasks, so I assigned them to where I knew they would flourish. However, the most significant part of the process was not our research or even design–it was how we conveyed our idea to the panel of judges. Every decision we made was questioned, and we needed a response, prompting me to examine *why* we made something and not just how? Daily communication with each of my partners led to our individual abilities to answer questions that were not even in our specialty, yet our consistent communication made us experts in foreign fields.
At Fast & Friends, our interns are taught additional coding skills. However, we expect them to have strong soft skills. Tell us about your soft skills.	I have several soft skills that are perfect for an internship at Fast & Friends. As I was mentioning, I am going to graduate at the top of my class, and I have persisted in that academic achievement through my perfect attendance for all of high school, never having turned in a late assignment. I feel my punctuality and reliability makes me an excellent candidate for the Fast & Friends environment where I will have a team who will rely on me. Additionally, I feel I have maintained a positive attitude with my peers and could introduce my communication skills and flexibility into the workplace environment at Fast & Friends to effectively produce website content.

Ultimately, what kind of work do you hope to pursue in the distant future? In other words, what is your dream job? Why?	In order to reach my dream job, I feel I first would love to utilize the time I am given to continue my specialization and advance my field of study in that I would hope to complete a doctorate or masters in computer science or a related field. California has amazing schools within this program, so staying local definitely seems like the plan for me in the near future. I am simply fascinated by the material, and I would love the opportunity to learn as much as I can. Eventually, or in the more distant future, I will be able to apply what I have learned to a job in web development. While I understand that the internship is only a short-term position, I hope to take my on-site learning experience with me to college and will hopefully return to utilize all the experience given to me to perform the best that I can in a full-time position should that opportunity become available to me when I finish my schooling.
How do you handle failure or set-backs?	I feel that the method in which I handle set-backs can be best explained in a recent mistake of mine, which was in my Programming Concepts and Methodology class that I am taking at Clovis Community. One of the prompts asked me to perform one task, and I knew another way to solve it, but the auto-grader was fixed to search for one solution. Even though I was correct, I was marked down. I wasn't sure what was going on either because I knew the solution was more efficient, but I reviewed it with my professor and classmates. Eventually, I realized that I was missing a semicolon. Something as small as that threw off my program when I attempted to solve the method proposed to me, which is why I tried to solve it my way. Nonetheless, it has taught me to become more attentive to the minor things I put within my code.
What are your strengths?	My most significant strength is my dedication to specific projects, which, at times, has cost me. I have a bit of a perfectionist mindset, and I will often try to adjust something until I am finally satisfied with it. While this does mean that in the end, I am happy with the final product, during time crunches, this only elevates the pressure I feel. During times like this, I could most benefit from a social environment where I am one of the multiple people on a project and can ask someone for guidance. I see this communicable environment in Fast & Friends and hope to utilize those connections to design websites and other projects to the best of our ability.
What are your weaknesses?	My biggest weakness prevalent in all aspects of my life is falling victim to minor distractions. While I cannot say that it invades my life, I can notice from time to time that I will lose my place in a book or lose my train of thought because of something minuscule that happened in my environment. Recently, I have been listening to music with earbuds while I work to tune out my surroundings. The biggest culprit is my phone, so I will turn off my notifications whenever I need the space to study or work. If that does not work either, I know I have an issue and will sometimes put my phone and charger in another room, so I won't feel motivated to check it.
Why should we hire you?	I feel that I should be hired because I would best match the energy and ambiance at Fast & Friends in that I will bring a positive attitude while also going above what is expected of me for all projects, independent and collaborative. As I stated before, I was involved in creating a toolbox design for

	the International Space Station, and one of the key components of that project was creative and computational thinking where I had to evaluate and consider user experience. I took much of that knowledge in user experience that I learned independently and at CART and applied it to web development when I created a tourism website with a group, sponsoring tourism to Hong Kong and Singapore. Furthermore, my experience in an honors English pathway makes me a candidate well-versed in written communication as was expected of me at CART and my traditional school.
Do you have any questions? (must ask 1-2 questions related to the position or the company)	One question that I have is: where do you all see the company in five years, and how do you all fit into that vision? In my role, how could I aid in reaching that goal, and what expectations are there of me that are not listed in the job description to achieve this hope? I am also curious how a typical day would look for someone in my position, who I can be expected to work with, and what types of projects? I am comfortable working on independent and collaborative projects, but I imagine that I receive more of the latter as a web developer. Is that right? One final question I have is in regards to growth. Are there opportunities for me to take on more significant commitments to the company in the future?