Ryan Stepp
Research:
Three Selected Positions:
*Internship: [Garmin- Software Engineer](#)
Job: [Dropbox- Software Engineer](#)
Graduate Program: [UNCC Masters Program](#)
*Chosen Pursuement

Dropbox and UNCC Masters

Both Dropbox's job postin and UNCC Masters program are excellent options right out of college, but my only problem is that I am still a distance away from that. Right now the next thing that I am concerned with is a summer internship, and being able to develop a better resume for when I do get out of college. I think that I would look much deeper into the other two options if I was senior thinking about my steps out of college, but right now I want to focus on internships. When I do get out of college, I think I might start looking into UNCC's grad program as they offer a "path through the Computer Science M.S. degree program by taking only evening classes (5 pm or later)"(*Evening Computer Science*). And I definitely will look into jobs around Charlotte as "The growth of tech-focused companies is also shaping region's future." (*Charlotte Regional Business Alliance*, 3). These are resources and paths that will be helpful to me in the future, but not at this current moment, in which the internship is.

Garmin:

I chose the Garmin internship for three reasons. First, it's proximity to my place of living, where-in the place of work is Cary, not too far away from where I'm living in Wake Forest. Secondly, Garmin's reputation as a consumer-focused company that " continuously reinvest in people, facilities, and equipment to focus on long-term success and stability."(*About Garmin*). Lastly, it being a good option as a customer focuses application that would develop the skill set I chose I wanted to go down on as a Software Engineer. I've always known I want to work with computers for a living, but through college, I've seen I want to specifically work at the intersection of human and computer. Making sure that my applications work seamlessly with the users and that my users work seamlessly with the users.

Garmin focuses on making applications that are meant to be worn and used daily, either through their applications or their wide amount of wearable products. Working on applications that interact so closely with the user is exactly what I want to do, and Garmin has an open opportunity that works perfectly with what I want to do as a Software Engineer. The internship also asks for "training in a low, mid, or high level language such as C, C , C#, Java, or other selected languages"(*Parallel Desk*) which I think properly coincides with my level of experience. I don't really see anything on the posting that I can't apply myself towards.

MLA Citations:

"ABOUT US." *About Garmin*, www.garmin.com/en-US/company/about-garmin/.

Cmsadmin. "Evening Computer Science Ms Degree Program." *College of Computing and Informatics*, 3 Sept. 2020, cci.charlotte.edu/academics/computer-science/masters-program/evening-computer-science-ms-degree-program.

"Software Engineer Intern (Cary, NC Summer 2021): GARMIN INTERNATIONAL, Inc.: North Carolina." *Software Engineer Intern (Cary, NC Summer 2021) | Garmin International, Inc. | North Carolina*, paralleldesk.com/amp/software-engineer-intern-cary-nc-summer-2021?utm_campaign=google_jobs_apply&utm_source=google_jobs_apply&utm_medium=organic.

"Technology." *Charlotte Regional Business Alliance*, 2019, charlotteregion.com/clientuploads/Data/WhitePapers/19_Technology.pdf.

Ryan S. Stepp
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September 8, 2021

Shanna Lynnes
Garmin Internship Program
1200 E 151st St
Olathe, Kansas 66062

Dear Mrs. Lynnes

Currently a junior studying at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I am applying for a summer internship at Garmin's Cary location.

I am a software engineer who is excited about the development of new systems and practical solutions. I have developed a skillset with mainly Java, and seeing the internship application online instantly piqued my interest. Garmin employs and develops leading GPS technology that helps millions of people daily, being part of that operation covering the breadth of fields that Garmin supports would be fantastic.

Through a multitude of group projects, as well as my time as an instructor with iD Tech, I have developed the ability to work collaboratively with ease. Both have developed my interpersonal skills greatly, and I try to apply that to the work that I do. The software engineering and HCI classes at college have thoroughly prepared me for application design and research for focus groups. Through the early designing and planning of development, to the cooperation accomplishing it. As for technological requirements, I have:
- Relevant experience working in Java, as well as foundations in C++ and Python
- Accomplished projects incorporating data structures
- Meet the GPA and team-working experience required

Garmin's mission to support and develop so many industries is a monumental and virtuous task. Garmin's ethos and credibility inspire me, and I would love to be able to interview and work under the prestige of Garmin. Thank you for taking the time to read through my letter, and I hope we will be in contact soon.

Sincerely,

Ryan Stepp

Ryan S. Stepp

350 N Rock Springs Rd.
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587
(717) 585-3844
rstepp1@uncc.edu

A student specializing in Computer Science to translate ideas into systems through effective programming. Focused on problem-solving with expertise in logic and diverse codebases, algorithms, data usage, and how humans interact with programming. A creative thinker who has a background in collaborating with others to bring new things to life that ultimately benefits many.

Education:

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte - Charlotte, North Carolina   *Expected Spring 2023*
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Concentration: Software Engineering
GPA: 3.54

Work Experience:

iD Tech Online Summer Camps   *June - August 2021*
Worked as an Instructor for ages 9 - 14, primarily teaching Java through Minecraft modding.

Relevant Courses Taken:

- Introduction to Operation Systems & Networking
- Matrices and Linear Algebra
- Data Structures and Algorithms
- Human-Centered Design
- Software Engineering

Relevant Projects:

- Human-Centered Design:
  - A project to design a prototype for a Zoom-like service was assigned.
  - Through working with a partner, we created an idea for a grade-book/video-conferencing application called Cazoo, for which we created prototypes and developed an HCI User Research Report for.
- Software Engineering:
  - Worked with a mid-sized group on the creation of a bookmarking Chrome extension called Tuck
  - Focused on a leadership role, as well as the design and front-end of the project.

Skills & Qualifications:

- Skilled in Java, HTML, CSS
- Experience with Python, C++, C
- ACA Certified in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign

General

- What makes you the right person for this job?
  - Garmin is a company that inspires and helps people get out and accomplish goals, and I think that CS people often get portrayed as the opposite of that, cooped up in their cubicle, constantly working at their computer. While I can sit at a computer for hours at a time, I'd like to think I'm good at all of the essential people skills as well. I'm able to talk and communicate technological things, as well as having the mindset for a forward-thinking company like Garmin
- What motivates you?
  - The two major motivations I'd say I have are creation and self-set goals. In terms of long-term motivation, I look to the future to those goals I have set for myself; having a house in the next 10 years, being completely self-sufficient in the next 3 years, having an internship in the next 1. When it comes to the current moment, I'm always happy when I'm creating something new, the ability to have a project and coming up with the way I want to go at it, and seeing the fruition of my labor is incredibly motivating.
- What is your greatest strength? Your greatest weakness?
  - In terms of greatest strength, I do think my ability to work in teams is very good. I've had plenty of experience through group work in schools in both bad, fragmented groups and well-working ones, and I'd like to say I found my role easily in both, while not necessarily the leader, I like to work support, helping anyone who is falling behind and making sure the overall project is cohesive. My greatest weakness is often my stubbornness to move on, very much rooted in the sunk-cost fallacy. If I put a lot of time into something and it's very unlikely that it will work perfectly, I have a very hard time putting it down and starting again.
- Describe a difficult situation that you have had to handle and how you handled it.
  - A difficult situation was in one of my classes during a project where we were putting together a PowerPoint presentation, I noticed one person essentially drop in a large block of text, and after a quick google search, I found it was ripped off a website. I felt uncomfortable knowing this as there is a certain amount of solidarity present in the groups, and it almost felt like turning in the person was a betrayal of them. The way I went about doing it was to be more anonymous by messaging a teaching assistant and letting them know about it after one of the classes. I think I could have handled the situation much better by first going to the individual who plagiarized and talking to them about it, and trying to get them to fix it, and then if they didn't then go to the TA.

Skills

- Which aspects of this job do you think are most important?

- In the job posting the areas that stuck out to me, in particular, are the ability to learn and apply company engineering modules, the importance of communication, and the ability to provide clear and honest status of work. These work well at every job, but especially well at an internship where you are breaking into the industry.
- How do you make sure you get tasks completed on time?
  - Setting a schedule is a must for me, being able to split up work into general time zones on how much time I think it's going to take to complete really helps with completing all of my work on time. Breaks are also important, so if I notice myself flagging behind on pace, 10 minutes is usually enough to get up, stretch, and refocus.

Teamwork

- If you could be #1 employee but have all your coworkers dislike you or you could be #15 employee and have all your coworkers like you, which would you choose? Why?
  - While option 1 provides a clear sense of individuality, I'd much rather be in the second position because of the environment provided. I'd work much better in a situation where I work together with my coworkers, and they are a team, I'd like the persons giving their opinion on me to HR to be a positive one. And I want the person looking over my code to get back to me on why/if my code was wrong somewhere.
- Describe a time where you were involved with a great team, and describe why it was great.
  - It was a very weird case in which my Software Engineering class had split up the class into teams of 6 in order to develop an application of your choice. 2 of the members were never present once in class, and another went awol a third of the way in. Despite the missing people, the leftover group was one of the best I have worked in, each member contributing their third of the application. It was a Bookmarking Chrome Application called Tuck, and I worked mainly on the CSS styling, as well as the UI/UX design of the product. While one member handled the backend of the product and the last worked on the User Research reports and write-ups for the final project.

Leadership

- If you are in a room full of people with a group task to do and no one in charge, what is your response?
  - I think without a dedicated leader in charge, work can still be done collectively. By divvying up into groups of what we are best at, and working together in that aspect, past the initial phases of grouping up and the start of work itself, leadership isn't necessary.

- Should a leader be prepared to ask staff to do something that he/she isn't prepared to do?
  - Absolutely, the chain of command is there for a reason, and the ability to communicate your views and level of preparation. The ability to ask is indispensable, and if staff deems it necessary for the leader to continue on, that is fine, it just means there is no one else more prepared for the thing anyway. Being clear and open with your employee on the things that you are doing and are comfortable doing is a must.
- How would you lead a group of 4 people trying to fit an elephant in a refrigerator?
  - In a case where the task is impossible, but necessary, like this situation right here, I think morale is a must. Keeping everyone excited even though that this is a monumental task that will take many weeks to months doing, and hard hard labor would be a difficult task, but I think ultimately possible. I think breaks, rotations, and quality catering would provide the much-needed stress release of this strenuous task, and after many man-hours, this could be accomplished.

Self-Starter

- Do you prefer to be absolutely clear about what is expected of you, or to work within broad principles?
  - I'd say I lean toward the former as it provides a semi-rigid guideline towards what exactly I will be doing. Broad principles provide a looser way to interact with your work, but knowing exactly what you are going to do provides less uncertainty, and ensures you can accomplish what you are meant to do. There is more accountability for failing, but there is less risk of failing because you should be familiar with the work expected of you.

Creativity

- Do you like taking risks?
  - One of my Dad's favorite quotes is "trust, but verify" and I like to apply that to my risk-taking. I try not to go into a risk completely blind, I like to know the chances behind it. If I am comfortable and informed about the risk, it is enjoyable to take a risk. You have to at some point in life or you aren't going to get anything done, I just think it's important that the risk you take is calculated and well-researched before you take it, and that the reward is worth the weight of the risk as well.
- What would you say is the most creative thing that you do? Why did you choose this?
  - I like to do a lot of creative things; reading, whittling, I've messed around with pixel art and music as well(wasn't very good at either) . The thing I pride myself most on is my doodles, I think while not necessarily lauded in artistic value, doodles are pure creativity, thought-to-page transmission. If I want to draw a

detective dog looking for a wanted alpaca, I can, and it might not be great but there's no accountability. It's just a small drawing in the margins of my STAT class notes.

Shock Questions

- If you were a superhero, why would your superpower be?
  - It's a weird one but I always loved the old cartoon mad scientists and their crazy distorted plans that always went wrong, so I think my superpower would be Mad Science. Making distorted non-sensical plans to "take over the world" when the plan is already doomed to fail would be a blast, and in a world of superheroes, there need to be villains, and all of them don't have to be straight-up evil you know. I'd like to fill the lovable-villain that goes to the county jail for the night for a small amount of property damage instead of the one locked up in max security for the rest of their lives.

Thank You Letter:
Ryan Stepp
350 N Rock Springs Rd.
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(717) 585-3844

9/21/21

Shanna Lynnes
Garmin Internship Program
1200 E 151st St
Olathe, Kansas 66062

Dear Mrs. Lynnes,

Thank you for the opportunity and the time spent with me on the interview for the Software Engineering Internship on Friday. I'm extremely excited about this opportunity to work with Garmin and the team.

As a vocal and experienced team worker, I believe that I can adequately add to your team and meet all the requirements we discussed in the interview. Working with kids and adults alike, I've sharpened my skills in being communicative and interacting with my customers, and I believe I can incorporate those skills into the internship a Garmin.

Thanks again for the interview, and I hope to hear about the job soon. If you need to get in contact with me, my cell phone is 717-585-3844 and my email is rstepp1@uncc.edu.

Sincerely,
Ryan Stepp

Acceptance Letter:
Ryan Stepp
350 N Rock Springs Rd.
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587
(717) 585-3844

9/21/21

Shanna Lynnes
Garmin Internship Program
1200 E 151st St
Olathe, Kansas 66062

Dear Mrs. Lynnes,

I am more than pleased to accept the Software Engineering Internship opportunity at Garmin in
Cary.

I have marked the date on the calendar and I am checking my email daily for updated
information at any time. I look forward to the ability to work with the team and learn the
methods you use at Garmin.

I am eagerly anticipating the chance to work together with you.

Sincerely,
Ryan Stepp