

# Will Burns

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[Remote](#)

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## SKILLS

JavaScript, Python, React, Redux, HTML, CSS, Node.js, Express.js, Flask, SQL, SQLAlchemy, SQLite3, PostgreSQL, GitHub

## PROJECTS

**Slick Spots** (Javascript, React, Redux, Express, Sequelize, PostgreSQL, SQLITE3), *Sole Developer*

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*Full-stack web app based on AirBnb*

- Implemented comprehensive error handling in the backend (Node.js, Express), ensuring user-friendly responses for different scenarios—e.g., booking conflicts, unauthorized actions, invalid input.
- Enhanced user interface by integrating modals using React, which was crucial for functionalities like user authentication, spot creation, and booking management.
- Developed a dynamic booking system that allows users to create, manage, and modify reservations.
- Designed and implemented a “Create Spot” feature, allowing users to list new properties, using externally hosted URLs to display property images; integrated these URLs into the Sequelize model, enabling efficient retrieval and display of relevant images, which reduced server load and streamlined the development process.

**Ask a Master** (Javascript, Python, React, Redux, Flask, SQLAlchemy, PostgreSQL), *Sole Developer*

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*Full-stack web app based on Quora*

- Leveraged local state and context instead of using Redux, simplifying state flow for a small-scale project.
- Developed a sophisticated algorithm with SpaCy to map extracted keywords to relevant images, allowing for an intuitive and visually appealing user experience.
- Implemented search functionality using React and Flask, enabling users to perform dynamic queries across multiple models.
- Enhanced user experience by allowing seamless addition and removal of bookmarks with dynamic updates to the UI.

## EXPERIENCE

**Instructor of Record**, *University of Houston*

09/2014-2022, 09/2020- 12/2022

- Led synchronous online Freshman Composition courses for non-native English-speaking students (through Dalian Maritime University’s UH partnership) from 2020-2022, tailoring my curriculum to address unique cultural perspectives, language and learning needs.
- Designed and taught online/hybrid/face-to-face *Freshman Composition, Literature, Fiction, and Intro to Creative Writing* courses from 2014-2022; rated as “Superior” Instructor.
- Fostered an inclusive, empathetic classroom environment that encouraged cross-cultural communication, improving students’ academic writing and research skills.

## EDUCATION

**University of Houston** – Ph.D. in Literature with Creative Dissertation

09/2014-09/2019

**The New School** – MFA, Fiction Writing

2011-2013

**University of Arkansas** – BA, English, French

2004-2009