

Luke Acosta

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SUMMARY

Early-career **Java** developer with a 2026 Bachelor of Science in **Computer Science** and supervised practicum experience building reliable **software programming** solutions. Brings hands-on knowledge of Java, **Core Java**, C++, object-oriented programming, data structures, algorithms, REST-style services, JDBC, PostgreSQL, Git, JUnit, debugging, and technical documentation. University projects turned requirements into tested features, database-backed workflows, and clear demonstrations for faculty and peers. Structured coding interview preparation strengthened problem-solving habits and practical communication. Experience with code review, unit testing, integration testing, Agile sprint planning, and iterative portfolio development supports client-focused delivery. Eager to join Northstar CodeWorks, contribute dependable work on technology client projects, and keep growing through feedback, collaboration, and practical software development.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science
Northern Illinois University GPA: 3.8
Coursework: Java programming, Core Java, C++ programming, data structures and algorithms

2026
DeKalb, IL

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Java, Core Java, C++
- **Object-Oriented Design:** Encapsulation, Inheritance, Interfaces
- **Data Structures:** Linked Lists, Stacks, Maps
- **Algorithms:** Sorting, Lookup, Runtime Analysis
- **Testing Tools:** JUnit, Unit Testing, Integration Testing
- **Database Technologies:** PostgreSQL, JDBC, Relational Data Access
- **Version Control:** Git, GitHub, Feature Branches
- **Web Services:** REST-Style Services, Request Handling, Service Classes
- **Development Practices:** Code Review, Debugging, Exception Handling
- **Delivery Methods:** Agile Sprint Planning, User Stories, Pull Requests

SKILLS

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|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Java | • Data Structures | • PostgreSQL | • Debugging |
| • Core Java | • Algorithms | • REST-Style Services | • Unit Testing |
| • C++ | • JUnit | • Git | • Integration Testing |
| • Object-Oriented Programming | • JDBC | • GitHub | |

EXPERIENCE

Java Developer Practicum Student
University Java Development Practicum

January 2026 - May 2026
Naperville, IL

Supported a supervised Java development practicum focused on a Core Java reservation service, relational data access, testing, documentation, and collaborative release practices. Translated faculty needs into working software while building practical habits for client project delivery.

- Built a **Core Java** equipment reservation service with encapsulation, interfaces, collections, and exception handling across a 12-feature backlog.
- Converted faculty requirements into user stories, class diagrams, and implementation tasks, giving weekly demonstrations a traceable delivery path.
- Added input validation and JUnit tests for reservation conflicts, date handling, and invalid records, then fixed defects found during instructor review.
- Connected application workflows with PostgreSQL through JDBC and documented schema decisions, query behavior, and setup steps for repeatable execution.
- Used Git feature branches and pull-request code reviews among three students, applying feedback before each graded release.
- Presented a working prototype and troubleshooting guide to 20 classmates, earning high distinction for reliability and technical documentation.

Java Developer
Software Engineering Capstone Project

August 2025 - December 2025
Aurora, IL

Delivered a supervised **Java** capstone application that connected student interests with volunteer opportunities. Owned feature implementation, test coverage, defect analysis, documentation, and team coordination, creating a practical setting for software programming growth.

- Developed a Java REST-style application with search, filtering, registration, and profile features, giving reviewers a complete service workflow for demonstration.

- Applied object-oriented design and reusable service classes to separate business rules from persistence and request handling, making changes easier to test.
- Implemented **C++** comparisons for sorting and lookup strategies, using runtime observations and test cases to support algorithm decisions in a final report.
- Created unit and integration tests for incomplete profiles, duplicate registrations, and unavailable opportunities before each sprint review.
- Diagnosed defects through structured logs and debugger sessions, then recorded root causes and corrective actions in a shared issue tracker.
- Coordinated requirement walkthroughs and sprint presentations with four classmates, producing an installation guide and runnable repository for faculty review.

Java Developer Student

January 2025 - May 2025

Object-Oriented Programming Course Project

Chicago, IL

Completed a supervised object-oriented programming project for a simulated community bookstore. Built foundational Java and Core Java skills through domain modeling, persistence, testing, C++ comparisons, peer review, and live demonstrations.

- Designed a **Core Java** inventory application modeling books, orders, customers, and stock movements with inheritance and interfaces for maintainable domain behavior.
- Implemented menu-driven workflows, file-based persistence, and defensive error handling, preserving records after malformed quantities or identifiers.
- Wrote JUnit tests for pricing rules, inventory updates, and order cancellation, using boundary cases before final classroom submission.
- Compared Java and C++ implementations of linked lists, stacks, and maps, documenting memory and usability tradeoffs in a technical reflection.
- Used Git for incremental commits and reviewed peer code for naming, duplication, and maintainability during scheduled lab sessions.
- Demonstrated application behavior to an instructor and 15 classmates, responded to live test scenarios, and revised documentation from evaluation feedback.

PROJECTS

Volunteer Opportunity Matching Service 📅 2025

Built a Java REST-style service with profile, search, filtering, and registration workflows. Practiced requirements analysis, object-oriented design, testing, debugging, documentation, and team delivery through a complete capstone release.

Equipment Reservation Prototype 📅 2026

Created a Core Java reservation prototype backed by PostgreSQL and JDBC. Added validation, exception handling, JUnit coverage, Git review practices, and setup guidance for dependable classroom demonstrations.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Computer Science Capstone Excellence Award, Northern Illinois University, 2025
- Dean's List, Northern Illinois University, Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
- Undergraduate Academic Achievement Scholarship, Northern Illinois University, 2024 - 2026

CERTIFICATIONS

- Java Object-Oriented Programming Certificate 📅 2025
- C++ Programming Fundamentals 📅 2025
- Git and GitHub Foundations 📅 2026

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Peer Tutor, Computer Science Learning Center, Northern Illinois University, 2025 - 2026
- Member, Association for Computing Machinery Student Chapter, 2024 - 2026
- Facilitator, Coding Interview Practice Group, Northern Illinois University, 2025 - 2026

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST