# JULIAN MERCER

**ENTRY-LEVEL BACKEND DEVELOPER**

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Entry-level Backend Developer with 1+ years of internship and full-time experience building REST APIs, database queries, and automated tests in Python and Java. Focused on readable code, reliable services, and learning production practices from experienced teammates.

## CORE SKILLS

Python | Java | REST API design | PostgreSQL | SQL | Flask | Spring Boot | Docker | Git | pytest | JUnit | Unit testing | Linux basics | Data structures

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Junior Backend Developer** Oct 2025 - Present
**Twilio, San Francisco, CA**

- Investigated slow queries with EXPLAIN plans and added two composite indexes, cutting p95 latency on a lookup endpoint by 40% and removing a recurring timeout alert.
- Resolved flaky integration tests by isolating test data, improving CI pass rates from 82% to 96% and documenting the fixes for the team to follow on new tests.
- Containerized a reporting service with Docker and documented local setup, cutting new-developer onboarding from two days to half a day for the next two hires.
- Implemented token-based authentication checks on three endpoints, following the team's security review guidance and adding tests for expired and malformed tokens.
- Wrote integration tests for the usage reporting endpoints covering pagination and error codes, keeping the service coverage above 85% after later changes.
- Participated in daily standups and code reviews, incorporating feedback on naming, error handling, and test design into every following pull request.
- Updated the runbook with endpoint behavior and error codes, giving teammates a working reference for local testing and incident follow-up.

**Backend Engineering Intern** Jun 2025 - Sep 2025

- Built two REST endpoints in Python and Flask for usage reporting, handling about 5,000 requests per hour in staging with request validation and clear error responses.
- Optimized a slow PostgreSQL query with an index and rewrite, reducing response time from 1.8 seconds to 240 milliseconds.
- Wrote 55 pytest unit and integration tests, lifting service coverage from 60% to 85% before the internship ended and catching a pagination bug early.
- Added structured logging and a latency dashboard in Datadog, helping the team spot a slow dependency within a day of the first staging load test.
- Fixed 14 backlog bugs, including input-validation gaps, and documented causes in pull request descriptions so reviewers could follow each fix quickly.
- Documented the new endpoints in an OpenAPI file and walked a front-end engineer through them, which let the team start building against the contract that week.
- Added request-level tracing to the reporting service and wrote a short guide on reading it, helping teammates narrow a slow endpoint in under an hour.

## EDUCATION

**B.S. in Computer Science**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

## CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner | Oracle Certified Associate, Java SE