

Claudia Castagna

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EDUCATION

University of Virginia (UVA) | Charlottesville, VA **Expected: May 2028**

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Minor in Data Science **GPA: 4.0**

- Dean's List (Fall 2025)

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) | Annandale, VA

Aug 2024 - May 2025

Undergraduate Studies Computer Science

GPA: 4.0

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Java, Python, Bash, YAML, PyQt, Pytest, Matplotlib, Excel, Git

EXPERIENCE

UVA CS Department, Chandra Robot Autonomy Lab | **Undergraduate Researcher** **October 2025 - Present**

Charlottesville, Virginia

- Assisting in research to enhance robot autonomy by developing and testing advanced simulation environments for reinforcement learning (RL) models
- Utilizing UVA's high-performance servers and **Linux**-based command-line tools to run, monitor, and manage large-scale RL training experiments
- Contributing to experiment planning, data analysis, and documentation for upcoming conference submissions (e.g., ECCV/IROS 2026)

NASA Langley | **Software Engineering Intern**

June 2025 - August 2025

Hampton, Virginia

- Developed a Python program with **YAML** parsing and **PyQt** UI to define robot component hyperparameters, calculate physics-based equations, visualize results, and export data to **CSV** for use in mechanical design
- Ensured accuracy and reliability through **Pytest** unit tests, **Git**-based version control, and code reviews
- Collaborated with materials and mechanical engineering teams to gather requirements and translate workflows into functional UI features

United States Geological Survey (USGS) | **Volunteer Data Scientist**

January 2025 - June 2025

Reston, Virginia

- Contributed to developing a comprehensive digital fossil dataset in **Excel** for the New England Conodont Data Repository, ensuring data accuracy and consistency to support geological research.
- Co-author: Parker et al., USGS Data Release (2026). <https://doi.org/10.5066/P13ARJNP>

Apple Store | **Product Specialist**

Aug 2024 - Jan 2025

Fairfax, Virginia

- Identified customer needs and communicated technology solutions in an accessible, user-centered way
- Guided customers through device setup and troubleshooting, including interactive demos of the Apple Vision Pro, introducing spatial computing

INVOLVEMENT

NOVA Women in STEM Club | **Secretary**

Aug 2024 - May 2025

Annandale, Virginia

- Led outreach campaigns to encourage young women to pursue STEM fields and managed club communications
- Organized and facilitated weekly meetings with team-building, career prep, and guest speakers
- Presented at local elementary schools to inspire young girls to pursue STEM and explore future careers