

Claudia Castagna

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EDUCATION

University of Virginia (UVA) Charlottesville, VA <i>Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Minor in Data Science</i>	Expected: May 2028 GPA: 4.0
• Dean's List (Fall 2025)	
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Annandale, VA Undergraduate Studies Computer Science	Aug 2024 - May 2025 GPA: 4.0

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

EXPERIENCE

UVA CS Department, Chandra Robot Autonomy Lab Undergraduate Researcher Charlottesville, Virginia	October 2025 - Present
• 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 Hampton, Virginia	June 2025 - August 2025
• 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 Reston, Virginia	January 2025 - June 2025
• 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 Fairfax, Virginia	Aug 2024 - Jan 2025
• 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 Annandale, Virginia	Aug 2024 - May 2025
• 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	