

# Dhruv Kandula

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## EDUCATION

### University of California, Irvine

*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; GPA: 3.96*

Irvine, CA

*Sep. 2023 – June 2027*

## AWARDS

**Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition (CPTC) 2026 Global Champion**

**National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC) 2025 Champion**

**Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition**

## EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate Student Researcher

Oct. 2024 – Aug. 2025

*AS2Guard Lab, University of California, Irvine*

*Irvine, CA*

- Built a Python-based drone security research platform to simulate and reproduce real-world cyberattacks in **ArduPilot SITL**, using **MAVLink telemetry** analysis to measure impact on flight stability and mission execution
- Applied **agentic AI** to amplify exploit severity and developed a **React + D3** visualization tool mapping chained vulnerabilities (**CWE/CAPEC**); presented at VehicleSec '25, winning **Best Demo Award**

### Backend Software Engineer Intern

July 2024 – Sep. 2024

*Slang Labs*

- Developed a multi-platform documentation generation API using **Python and FastAPI**, automating content creation for Python, Android, Flutter, and Swift SDKs to enhance developer efficiency and user experience.
- Integrated a Large Language Model (**LLM**) observability solution into the backend infrastructure, enabling real-time monitoring of token usage and latency to enhance system reliability and cost management.

## ACTIVITIES

### Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition | *Linux Lead, National Champion*

Oct. 2023 – Apr. 2025

- **Led threat hunting and Linux** operations for UCI's CCDC team, defending enterprise networks against professional red teams and **winning 1st place** out of 200 universities nationwide.
- Hardened Linux servers, websites, databases, and **Docker/Kubernetes** deployments while implementing real-time monitoring with Falco, Sysmon, Graylog, and Splunk.
- Developed **Python, Bash, and Go** automation to enumerate, configure, patch, and firewall **30+** vulnerable systems in parallel, reducing remediation time by **90%**.

### Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition | *Captain, Global Champion*

May. 2025 – Present

- **Founded and captained** UC Irvine's CPTC team, winning the **Global Finals** against 100 university teams.
- Led full black-box penetration tests of simulated enterprise environments, including Linux, Windows, Active Directory, AWS, and web applications, leveraging **agentic automation** to coordinate **end-to-end workflows**.
- Leveraged agentic orchestration tooling to automate and coordinate end-to-end penetration testing workflows.
- Produced a **120+** page comprehensive vulnerability report and presented findings to a simulated executive leadership team.

### Cyber at UCI Club Vice President

May. 2025 – Present

- Designed and delivered hands-on technical workshops for **50+** students covering penetration testing, Docker container escapes, malware analysis, and video game security.
- Organized and led **red team engagements** for mock CCDC-style competitions, simulating realistic adversary behavior, persistence techniques, and attack chains to train defenders in incident response and threat hunting.
- Competed in Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions as the lead web exploitation specialist, ranked **45th** in the US.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages & Frameworks:** Bash, C/C++, Go, HTML/CSS, Java, JavaScript, Python, SQL (MySQL, Postgres), NoSQL, FastAPI, Flask, Nodejs, React, TensorFlow, Keras

**Technical Knowledge:** Agentic AI, Application Security, AWS, Computer Networking, Databases, Deep Learning, Digital Forensics, Docker, Git, Incident Response, Infrastructure, Kubernetes, Linux, Machine Learning, Penetration Testing, Threat Hunting