Erik Nguyen

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Education

University of California, San Diego — La Jolla, CA
M.S. in Computer Science — *Sep 2024 - Present*
- **GPA: 4.00/4.00**, Expected Grad Date: *Dec 2025*

California State University, Fullerton — Fullerton, CA
B.S. in Computer Science — *Aug 2022 - Aug 2024*
- **GPA: 3.94/4.00**, Graduated with Summa Cum Laude Honors

Skills

Programming: Python, Java, C/C++, C#, Lua, LaTeX, HTML
Applications: Android Studio, VS Code, Jupyter Notebook, PyCharm, IntelliJ, Git/GitHub, Excel
Libraries: PyTorch, Pandas, Flask, TensorFlow, NumPy, Scikit-Learn

Experience

Thales — Irvine, CA
Software Engineering Intern — *Jul 2024 - Oct 2024*
- Developed and executed over **150 JUnit** & **Mockito** test cases on the Android platform, ensuring full **JaCoCo** compliance for quality assurance.
- Led the research and evaluation of a new internal Thales **LLM**, assessing its adoption potential among **30+** current software engineers. Compiled findings into a technical report and delivered **3** presentations to key stakeholders.

CEDDI Lab — Fullerton, CA
Researcher — *Feb 2024 - Sep 2024*
- Designed a machine learning model for facial beauty perception, utilizing **vision/GNN-based deep learning** and bias-mitigation techniques. Improved prediction quality by **21%**, enhancing model reliability and fairness.

California State University, Fullerton — Fullerton, CA
Student Research Mentor — *May 2024 - Aug 2024*
- Guided and mentored **20**+ students on data science & pairs trading research projects, with topics that involve statistical analysis, data preprocessing, and machine learning.

Instructional Student Assistant — *Sep 2023 - May 2024*
- Graded and provided detailed feedback on over **400** student assignments/projects on Canvas for **Algorithm Engineering** and **Advanced Algorithms** courses, ensuring timely and accurate assessments.

ASSURE-US Research Fellowship, CSUF — Fullerton, CA
Researcher — *May 2023 - Jul 2023*
- Developed a **Random Forest** model predicting student dropout/graduation with **89%** accuracy using academic and socioeconomic factors. Presented at **SCCUR'2023** and **NCUR'2024** Conferences.
- Built a phenological model for cherry blossom bloom date predictions across Japan. Presented findings at **SIGKDD'2023** Conference for the SoCal Data Science Day track.

Publications

Regression Guided Strategy to Automated Facial Beauty Optimization through Image Synthesis
Erik Nguyen *and Spencer Htin*
arXiv preprint arXiv:2501.00811, 2025

Racially Inclusive Approach to Facial Beauty Modeling Using Machine Learning
Erik Nguyen*, Sampson Akwafuo, Doina Bein, and Blessing Ojeme*
Proceedings of the 2024 IEEE International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedicine (BIBM), pages 4467–4473. IEEE, 2024

Presentations

GenAI Summit at UCSD La Jolla, CA
Presenter for 2025 GenAI Summit at UCSD *Feb 2025*

- Presented "Regression Guided Strategy to Automated Facial Beauty Optimization through Image Synthesis" as an academic poster.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research Long Beach, CA
Presenter for NCUR'2024 Conference *Apr 2024*

- Presented the project "Student Success Classification in Higher Education" as an academic poster.

Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research Fullerton, CA
Presenter for SCCUR'2023 Conference *Nov 2023*

- Presented "Student Success Classification in Higher Education" as an academic poster.

29th Knowledge Discovery in Data Conference Long Beach, CA
Presenter for SIGKDD'2023 Conference *Aug 2023*

- Presented "Phenological Prediction of Cherry Blossom Bloom Dates in Various Geographic Locations of Japan" as an academic poster for the Southern California Data Science Day track.

Honors & Awards

Most Innovative Project Of The Year, CSUF ECS Innovation Expo 2024 Competition *Apr 2024*
Summa Cum Laude, Graduated with Honors at California State University, Fullerton *Aug 2024*

Projects

Caption Crafter | *Flask Web Application* *Jan 2024 - May 2024*

- Constructed a Flask web application leveraging image processing/**NLP** and deep learning to autonomously generate textual captions for user-uploaded images.

TuneStacker | *Native Android Application* *Jan 2023 - Feb 2023*

- Developed a music playlist management mobile app enabling users to import and sync playlists from platforms like YouTube. Integrated a built-in media player for listening to imported songs. This was a personal project of mine.