

# Pooja Lad

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## EDUCATION

**Florida International University (FIU); Miami, FL**

Expected graduation: May 2026

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

- **Minor in Biology**
- FIU Honors college; 3.98 GPA; Dean's List 2022-2024
- FIU Presidential Merit Scholarship Award; 1<sup>st</sup> Place for First-Year Writing Contest
- **Activities:** President of Green Campus Initiative, Creative Chair of Women in CS, AI Member of Risk Lab

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Evolution Research Intern**

January 2024 - Present

*Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Miami, FL*

- Performs chunking techniques on nematode worms to maintain and propagate strains in genetic and developmental studies and presents at the FIU Undergraduate Research Conference
- Assists in developing software program that identifies environmental contaminants using Python
- Prepares LB media to culture bacterial strains, operates Pour Boy machine to fill 100+ agar plates regularly, and conducts mortality assays on nematodes to synchronize lifecycle stages, ensuring uniform hatching of eggs

**Breast Cancer Bioinformatician**

February 2024 - July 2024

*Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Miami, FL*

- Collaborates on research focusing on recombinant proteins as drug targets for triple-negative breast cancer
- Assists with analysis and report for final publication

**Student Research Assistant**

June 2023 - April 2024

*FIU College of Engineering and Computing; Miami, FL*

- Organized files, made copies, and transported items for various projects
- Conducted data analysis and systematically compiled and organized microbiological research articles using Excel
- Used bioinformatic DADA2 and QIIME2 pipelines to analyze 16S rRNA sequences of AD, MCI, and NC cohorts for gut microbiome analyses

**Student Program Assistant**

September 2023 - December 2023

*Break Through Tech Miami; Miami, FL*

- Assisted in the design, organization, and implementation of multiple BTT outreach workshops and events, including 5-day workshops introducing 20-40+ students to computer science
- Designed high school programming competition t-shirts and assisted in writing BTT impact article
- Performed survey data entry and organization and represented BTT in multiple major tabling events

## PROJECTS

**Research Volunteer**

August 2023 - November 2023

*Start-up FIU GSK Challenge; Miami, FL*

- Collaborated with a team of 4 to conduct 80+ interviews and practiced team leadership
- Collected, organized, and analyzed data on variables relevant to GSK problem statement using charts and pivot tables in Excel
- Regularly presented findings and progress to GSK representatives and received mentorship in fields, such as marketing, pharmacy, data analysis, and entrepreneurship

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** Java, Python, R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- **Tools:** Node.JS, Tailwind, Figma, PostgreSQL, Django, React, Axios, Postman, Canva, Microsoft Office suite
- **Badges and Certificates:** AWS Cloud Foundations (2024), Data Science: R Basics (2023), Physical Science Responsible Conduct of Research (2023), Jackson Lab Cancer Genomics Course (2024)