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; 1st 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

Full-Stack Developer Intern   May 2024 - Present
Break Through Tech Miami; Miami, FL
- Develops a comprehensive web application designed to connect computing students with tech alumni in team of 5
- Utilizes Figma for design, React (JavaScript) with HTML/CSS for frontend, Axios for API integration, and Django with PostgreSQL/Python for backend to manage features like visual feed and job postings with Postman for API testing

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 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

VOLUNTEER/PROJECTS

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

Software Engineer   February 2024 – April 2024
INIT FIU; Miami, FL
- Reconstructed INIT FIU's website into a streamlined, engaging platform, enhancing user access to current events, programs, news, and resources
- Collaborated in a dynamic team for UX/UI design using Node.js, Tailwind, PostgreSQL, React, and Figma

TECHNICAL SKILLS
- **Languages:** Java, Python, R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- **Tools:** Node.JS, Tailwind, Figma, PostgreSQL, Django, React, Axios, Postman, Canva, Microsoft Office suite