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
- Relevant coursework: Computer Programming I & II (Java), Discrete Structures, Python Programming

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

Evolution Research Intern   January 2024 - Present

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Miami, FL
- Assists in developing software program that identifies environmental contaminants using Python
- Performs chunking techniques on nematode worms to maintain and propagate strains in genetic and developmental studies and presents at the FIU Undergraduate Research Conference
- 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 – June 2024

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Miami, FL
- Collaborates on research focusing on recombinant proteins as drug targets for triple-negative breast cancer and assists with analysis and report for final publication
- Works with bioinformatic DADA2 and QIIME2 pipelines to analyze 16S rRNA sequences of AD, MCI, and NC cohorts for gut microbiome analyses

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

Creative Chair   April 2024 - Present

Women in Computer Science FIU; Miami, FL
- Leads creative branding initiatives to enhance organizational identity and market presence
- Designs and produces a diverse range of promotional materials, including posters and social media graphics

President   February 2024 - Present

Green Campus Initiative FIU; Miami, FL
- Oversees the "Plastics If You Ask" initiative, aimed at reducing plastic waste on campus through dining areas
- Heads the expansion of water fountains across campus to ensure accessibility, encourage reusable water bottle usage, and reduce plastic bottle waste
- Organizes and manages projects to maintain environment for wetland conservation and invasive species removal

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, AWS Cloud Foundations Cert