

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; 4.0 GPA; Dean's List 2022-2023
- 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

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 and 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

Executive Producer

January 2024 - Present

Forward Thinkers Show Podcast; Miami, FL

- Assisted in producing a student-led podcast and communicated and coordinated meetings with guests to facilitate engaging discussions of technological advancement, leadership, and innovation
- Led promotional campaigns through email and social media and assisted in production set-up

Software Engineer

February 2024 – April 2024

INIT FIU; Miami, FL

- Reconstructed INIT FIU's website into a streamlined, engaging platform with Figma 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