

Nisha McNealis

UCLA Computer Science major, Math minor pursuing career in NLP

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Work Experience

Software Development Engineering Intern — Amazon

June 2022 – September 2022

- Successfully implemented a self-service demand forecasting tool for the Supply Chain Optimization Technologies team
- Interpreted complex requirements to create a formal design document, soliciting and incorporating feedback from code reviewers, customers, and senior engineers
- Wrote clean, scalable Python code in Amazon's proprietary environment using AWS Lambda, Step Functions, SNS and DynamoDB

Software Engineering Intern — The MITRE Corporation

June 2021 – December 2021

- SWE intern in Responsive Operational Planning at MITRE (a federally funded research lab born out of MIT)
- Built prototype using PostgreSQL, Spring Boot, and React to demonstrate feasibility of zero-trust data sharing with attribute-based access control
- One of six interns selected to present my work at company-wide showcase

Software Engineering Contractor — Clever Inc.

Aug 2020 – May 2021

- Wrote/debugged over 1,000 SSO scripts to enable Clever users to automatically log into educational websites
- Was the top contributor in Clever's history to the SavedPasswords product, which supports ~4M unique users and ~200M learning sessions

Software Engineering Intern — Cepton Technologies

June 2018 – Aug 2019

- Summer 2019: Built data collection website using JavaScript and AWS, set goals and deadlines as Intern Project Manager
- Summer 2018: Programmed features for internal manufacturing tool using C#, managed quality control projects with Jira

Other Experience

Research Assistant — UCLA PLUS Lab

Apr. 2022 – present

- Building ML model to predict newsworthiness of current events based on data from online newspapers
- Wrote script to scrape relevant information from Internet Archive and GDELT datasets

Research Assistant — Ozcan Research Group

June 2020 – Sept. 2020

- Collaborated with computer vision experts to preprocess image samples for virtual tissue staining

Events Director, Impact Officer — Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)

Oct. 2019 – present

- Lead team of students to plan [campus-wide events](#) to diversify and spread awareness about the field of AI/ML
- Develop and teach [curriculum](#) for high schoolers and UCLA students, with topics ranging from linear/logistic regression to deep learning

Projects

Common sense text classification with language models

March 2022

Fine-tuned several large-scale pretrained language models (BERT, RoBERTa, and T5) for a downstream text classification task. I was responsible for [explanation generation](#) using a secondary dataset and the T5 model.

Web development

2019 – present

Designed and created websites to educate students about [Conversational AI](#) and [Convolutional Neural Networks](#). Built webpages for the [Asian Pacific Community in Action](#), the [Hispanic Affairs Project](#), and my high school's [speech and debate team](#).

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

B.S. Computer Science | Math Minor | 3.9 GPA | Expected graduation June 2023

- Relevant courses: Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Linguistics, Data Structures and Algorithms, Algorithms and Complexity, Probability, Calculus of Several Variables, Linear Algebra

Palo Alto High School

4.6 GPA | Class of 2019

- 5/5 on all 8 AP exams (Computer Science, BC Calculus, Physics: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics: Mechanics, Spanish, U.S. History, Literature, Psychology)
- Extracurriculars include debate (nationally ranked in top 40), journalism (Managing Editor of online publication The Paly Voice).