

# Sawyer Alston

[sawyeralston.com](http://sawyeralston.com) | [sawyer@sawyer.alston](mailto:sawyer@sawyer.alston) | [linkedin.com/in/sawyer-alston](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sawyer-alston) | [github.com/sawyer.alston](https://github.com/sawyer.alston)

## EDUCATION

### University of Texas at San Antonio

B.S. Computer Science, GPA: 3.85

San Antonio, TX

May 2028

- Relevant Coursework: Appl. Linear Algebra, Data Structures, Discrete Math, Prog. in C, OOP, Math for CS
- Awards/Honors: 2x President's List, Folds of Honor Award, Honor Roll, MLH Winner

## EXPERIENCE

### Software Engineering Intern

Midwest Commercial Painting

June 2025 – August 2025

Chicago, IL

- Developed and deployed a new interactive company website, integrating SEO and modern frameworks, and leveraging frontend languages such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Led database overhaul and built proprietary bid-automation and data handling software, improving data clarity, reducing workload for 10+ employees, and accelerating the bid process by over **400%**.

### Diplomatic Technology Intern

December 2024 – February 2025

U.S. Department of State

Abuja, NG

- Developed and deployed a regional threat-filteration system automating nationwide RSS feed collection, filtration for relevant articles, and compilation into a daily email **serving 7+ key embassy departments**, including OSINT.
- Continue to upkeep and improve this project, recently pushing a full v2.0 revamp, including a 2-step filter leveraging a custom logistic regression model and KNN trained on high-signal, direct embassy data.

## PROJECTS

### ALERG'Z | Python, FastAPI, SQL, React Native

October 2025

- **Won 1st place** at RowdyHacksXI, making an app in under 24 hours helping users identify allergen risks in food products through barcode scanning and ingredient analysis, suggesting allergen-free alternatives for unsafe products
- Built a FastAPI backend integrated with an SQLite database to efficiently store, query, and validate food and allergy data, ensuring accurate, real-time responses

### ShelfSense | Python, Ngrok, Expo Go, RESTful API, React Native

November 2025

- Built a full-stack mobile app for the biggest 24-hour hackathon in America, HackUTD, using FastAPI with RESTful endpoints for receipt OCR input, SQLite for food-inventory tracking, and automatic expiration detection logic.
- Integrated Llama 3.3-NeMo via NVIDIA NIM for AI-driven recipe generation (with API-Ninjas as a fallback), and leveraged Ngrok, Expo Go, and React Native to deliver a tangible, clean, easy-to-use MVP for judges to explore.

### ML vs. DL Notebook | Python, Jupyter, PyTorch, scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib

November 2025

- Built a full-stack mobile app for the biggest 24-hour hackathon in America, HackUTD, using FastAPI with RESTful endpoints for receipt OCR input, SQLite for food-inventory tracking, and automatic expiration detection logic.
- Integrated Llama 3.3-NeMo via NVIDIA NIM for AI-driven recipe generation (with API-Ninjas as a fallback), and leveraged Ngrok, Expo Go, and React Native to deliver a tangible, clean, easy-to-use MVP for judges to explore.

## EXTRACURRICULAR

### Rowdy Creators (ACM) | Public Relations Junior Officer, AI Team Lead

2024 – Present

- Expanding club outreach through endorsements with regional companies, while leading the AI group project as we develop an ASL-to-Text accessibility application for individuals with hearing impairments and those around them.

### ICPC (ACM) | Participant/Student

2025 – Present

- Active participant in competitive-style programming, solving advanced algorithmic and data-structure problems to sharpen my technical interview skills while collaborating with driven peers on complex, time-constrained tasks.

### Table Tennis Club | Member

2025 – Present

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Backend/Tooling:** Python, FastAPI, PostgreSQL, Git, Docker, BeautifulSoup, openpyxl, Ngrok, Java, C

**Machine Learning/AI:** PyTorch, scikit-learn, Jupyter, NumPy, Pandas, matplotlib, HF Transformers, FAISS, OpenCV

**Deployment/Frontend:** HTML, CSS, JS, GitHub, Expo, Swagger, PyInstaller