

# Sawyer Alston

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## 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

June 2025 – August 2025

Midwest Commercial Painting

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, PostgreSQL, React Native, Expo Go

October 2025

- **Won 1st place** at RowdyHacksXI, making an app in <24 hours helping users identify allergen risks in food products using barcode scanning with 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.

### BureauBuddy | Python, React, Tailwind, FastAPI, Google Cloud, ElevenLabs SDK

February 2026

- Built an AI-powered document-processing accessibility tool that ingests and analyzes bureaucratic documents, translating dense jargon into simple explanations with actionable next-step guidance supporting 10+ languages.
- Leveraged track sponsors, Google Studio and ElevenLabs, to implement text-to-speech, data summarization, simplification, and translation endpoints, providing users every tool at their disposal to complete these forms.

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

November 2025

- Built a comparative sentiment-analysis pipeline evaluating ML versus DL approaches, benchmarking TF-IDF with Logistic Regression against an LSTM-based neural network on the Sentiment140 dataset.
- Implemented end-to-end NLP preprocessing, training, and evaluation with sklearn and PyTorch, analyzing class imbalance effects, A/B testing, convergence behavior, and inference efficiency between the two architectures.

## 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, React, Swagger, PyInstaller