Sawyer Alston

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at San Antonio   San Antonio, Texas
B.S. Computer Science   *Expected Graduation: May 2028*
GPA: 3.79

WORK EXPERIENCE

Midwest Commercial Painting, *Software Engineering Intern*   6/25 – 8/25
                                                                                    Chicago, Illinois

- Developed and deployed a new **interactive company website** leveraging **frontend** languages such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and relevant frameworks
- Led total **database revamp**, increasing company data clarity and reducing workload for **10+ employees** using implementation of automation and data handling using Python and relevant libraries such as pandas, openpyxl, matplotlib, and more
- Developed and deployed proprietary painting bid **automation, printing, and data handling** to **speed up the process by more than 400%** compared to previous approach

U.S. Department of State, *Diplomatic Technology Intern*   12/24 – 2/25
                                                                                    Abuja, Nigeria

- Worked as a DT Intern, where I **developed and deployed** the Embassy RTTI application (see Projects section)
- Learned **secure system management**, worked with sensitive **government networks and systems**, and resolved IT issues around the Embassy daily
- Continue to work with my department to support the upkeep of the RTTI application

U.S. Consulate General - Chennai, *Community Liaison Office Assistant*   06/23 – 07/23
                                                                                    Chennai, India

- Led an initiative to **digitize record-keeping processes** while working as a summer-hire assistant
- Organized multiple social events for the Consulate community
- Served as editor for CLO weekly newsletter

PROJECTS

ALERG'Z (*RowdyHacks '25 1st Place*)   10/25

- Developed a 1st place–winning hackathon project that helps users identify allergen risks in food products through barcode scanning and ingredient analysis, recommending geocentric 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**
- Designed and deployed a full-stack prototype in exactly **24 hours** to then present to judges, demonstrating strong skills in **Python**, **RESTful API design**, and **communication**

Embassy RTTI Program   12/24-Present

- Developed and deployed an **AI-powered** program using an **NLI model** to automate nationwide RSS news feed collection for the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria
- Designed a **filtering system to extract security-relevant articles**, compiling them into a daily report for the Regional Security Office, Overseas Intelligence, Public Diplomacy, and other key Embassy departments
- Leading **ongoing expansion** efforts to scale the project globally across all U.S. Embassies and Consulates while exploring more advanced AI models for enhanced analysis

ShelfSense (*HackUTD '25*)   11/25

- Built a full-stack mobile app in **24 hours** using **FastAPI** w/ **RESTful endpoints** for receipt **OCR** input, **SQLite** for food-inventory tracking, and automatic expiration detection logic
- For Nvidia's challenge I integrated **Llama 3.3‑NeMo via NVIDIA NIM** for AI-driven recipe generation, focusing on Nemotron's exceptional **synthetic data generation** and tool functionality using API-Ninjas as a fallback recipe source to ensure continuous recommendations.
- Leveraged **Ngrok** and **Expo Go** in combination with **React Native** in order to create a tangible, clean, easy-to-use MVP for judges to interact with and explore.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rowdy Creators   2025-Present
                                                    San Antonio, TX

- Hold the role of JO PR officer, where I work to expand the outreach of the club during a critical club rebrand by seeking club endorsements and sponsorships from local companies
- Lead the artificial intelligence group project where we are developing a ASL to Text application to assist with accessibility for those with, and around those with, hearing issues

Association for Computing Machinery and ICPC   2025-Present
                                                    San Antonio, TX

- Engaging with a community of like-minded peers passionate about technology through ACM
- Engage in annual hackathons hosted by ACM and hone my skills on DSA problems with ICPC
- Collaborate with peers to tackle complex LeetCode problems, exposing myself to alternative methods for approaching challenges I am passionate about solving

AWARDS & HONORS

MLH Hackathon Winner	Fall '25
UTSA President's List	Spring '25
UTSA Honor Roll	Fall '24
Folds of Honor Higher Education Award	2024
AISC Vision of a Learner Award	2023
U.S. Department of State: Certificate of Recognition	2021