

# VIBHA SUNEEL NAVALE

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## EDUCATION

**University of Illinois Chicago, IL** Jan 2024 – Expected Dec 2025  
Master of Science in Computer Science GPA: 4.00

**RNS Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, India** 2017 – 2021  
Bachelor of Engineering in Information Science GPA: 9.08

## SKILLS

**Research Methods** Mixed Methods Studies, Semi-Structured Interviews, Surveys, Observational Studies

**Analysis & Synthesis** Usability Testing, Thematic Analysis, Figma Prototyping

**Technical Tools** React, Next.js, Node.js, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, AWS, Docker, Git, Supabase, Postman

## EXPERIENCE

**Software Engineer** Aug 2021 – Dec 2023  
Cimpres Bengaluru, India / Remote

- Delivered logistics features that saved up to **\$100K annually** by building containerized **Node.js/Express** services and accessible **React/Angular** interfaces informed by customer feedback and support tickets.
- Partnered with product managers and designers to translate pain points into measurable API and UI requirements, documenting acceptance criteria and edge cases for each release.
- Improved user experience by adding targeted caching for high-traffic endpoints, reducing API latency by **40%** (900 ms to 530 ms) and lowering third-party dependency costs.
- Worked with operations, support, and finance to migrate observability from **Sumo Logic** to **New Relic**, cutting monitoring expenses by **75%** and consolidating dashboards for faster incident triage.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Software Engineering** Aug 2024 – Present  
University of Illinois Chicago Chicago, IL / On-site

- Guide student teams through semester projects, steering planning, iteration reviews, and user-focused requirements.
- Facilitate coding demos and office hours that connect architecture decisions to end-user impact, helping teams unblock features and maintain usability goals.
- Provide individualized feedback on user stories, technical designs, and demos to strengthen communication between research, design, and engineering roles.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

**Tech Support for Older Adults – MS Project** Jan 2025 – May 2025  
Conducted a mixed-methods study with five older adults, combining pre/post surveys, observational screen recordings, playback logs, and semi-structured interviews to compare video vs. written tech support. Synthesized findings into requirements and success metrics for an **automated guide builder** that transforms tutorial videos into step-by-step image flows using **OpenCV** and **FastAPI**.

**Technologies:** Mixed Methods Research, OpenCV, FastAPI, OS-ATLAS, React

**MindBridge** Sep 2024 – Dec 2024  
Led **user interviews** and **usability testing** for a mental-health intake platform, synthesizing insights into prioritized requirements and accessibility heuristics. Built a working **React** prototype that captured the proposed flows and provided the course team with implementation notes for further iteration.

**Technologies:** HCI Research, Interview Synthesis, Figma, React

**Find Your Roof** Jan 2024 – Apr 2024  
Collaborated with classmates to design and implement a **React/Next.js/Supabase** portal that curates shelters, rentals, and job resources for unhoused Chicago residents. Led accessibility checks, navigation structure reviews, and content updates to keep the experience grounded in user needs gathered from community briefings.

**Technologies:** React, Next.js, Supabase, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS

## PUBLICATIONS

**Why They Come, How They Learn: Older Adults in Formal Learning Spaces for Digital Skills** Apr 2025  
(HCI, Qualitative Analysis, Submitted to ACM ASSETS 2025)

Analyzed recordings from **13 workshops** with **95 older adults**, applying inductive and deductive codes to surface privacy, motivation, and environment factors that inform onboarding and education strategies; co-authored recommendations adopted by partnering organizations.