

# YIJIA ZHAO

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## Experiences

### University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

*Teaching Assistant in Object Oriented Programming / Intro to Software Engineering*

**08/2023 – Present**

- Built an **automated grader** in Java/Kotlin, featuring compiling, analytics, and Canvas APIs.
- Assisted in preparing instructional materials and designing course structure.
- Facilitated student learning through ~150 hrs. of regular office hours and discussion sessions.
- **Tracking and evaluating** 100+ individual projects, supervising multiple student teams.

### University of Florida; Vrygrond Community Development Trust

Cape Town, South Africa

*Project Manager; SCRUM Master*

**06/2023 – 08/2023**

- Developed a MERN stack community map, enhancing geo-info management and service query efficiency in an area with **40k residents** that lacks accessibility and faces socio-economic challenges.
- **Directed a team of 4** and delivered initial release within 1 month.
- Deployed with Heroku, designed >50% frontend components using Material UI, established MongoDB Atlas database, boosting client-side performance covering low resource devices.

### University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

*Frontend Developer Intern*

**01/2023 – 05/2023**

- Led the development of a MERN stack web app, improving the efficiency of managing senior projects.
- Worked on the frontend; designed innovative **Figma prototypes**, boosting website UI/UX.
- Integrated Cypress for **component tests**, ensuring component reliability.

## Projects

### Vrygrond Community Map <https://vrygrond.zy-j.com/README.html>

Cape Town, South Africa

*Full Stack Developer*

**06/2023 – 08/2023**

- This project improved community navigation and multiplied support services influence, assisting residents in better accessing **hundreds of services** and resources across the region.

### Doggy Daycare Dating <https://heidyc.itch.io/doggy-daycare-dating>

Gainesville, FL

*Backend Developer*

**01/2023 – 05/2023**

- A 2D top-down business simulation game featured in UF **Digital Worlds Showcase**, receiving great engagement and player feedback.

### Carpool for Gators <https://github.com/Yijia-Z/carpool4gators>

Gainesville, FL

*Frontend Developer*

**01/2023 – 05/2023**

- A full-stack carpool web app demo that aimed to improve transportation efficiency for the UF region.

## Education

### University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

*B.S. Computer Sciences*

**05/2025**

- **GPA:** 3.8/4.0
- **Awards:** President's Honor Roll (2021), Dean's List (2021~2023), Outstanding Undergraduate International Student Nomination (2023; 2 per college).
- **Relevant Courses:** Machine Learning, Software Engineering, Human-Computer Interaction, Operating Systems, Data Structure & Algorithms.

## Skills

**Languages:** Java, C#, TypeScript, JavaScript, C++, Python

**SWE Skills:** Git, React.js, Next.js, Tailwind, Node.js, MongoDB

**Misc:** Scikit-Learn, NumPy, Pandas, Unity, Blender, Linux