

Ava Hajratwala

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SUMMARY

Recent Columbia graduate and emerging leader passionate about designing and optimizing systems to make user, business, and developer experiences smoother. Experienced in full-stack development, AI research, and user-centered design. Seeking software engineering roles.

SKILLS

Languages: Java, TypeScript (Node), Python, C, C++, SQL (MySQL, PostgreSQL), HTML, CSS, Haskell

Frameworks: React, Spring Boot, Angular, Express.js, JUnit, Playwright

Developer Tools: Git, Docker, Supabase/Firebase, Vercel, Kafka, Postman, AWS, Maven

Libraries: jQuery, TailwindCSS, Bootstrap, NumPy, OpenCV, WebAudio

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer

M&T Bank

Jul. 2025 – Present

Wilmington, DE

- Proposed and implemented a department-wide GitLab CI/CD pipeline enhancement that minimized manual intervention and reduced deployment times by 25% across 5 teams.
- Maintained an internal application to help the bank manage risk over 1.2 million monthly transactions.
- Led an upgrade of my team's CSS framework across 4 applications, improving UI consistency and reducing maintenance time.

Full-stack Developer

WBAR Radio

Sept. 2024 – Feb. 2025

New York, NY

- Automated frontend/backend deployment processes by building development environments and CI/CD pipelines, speeding up deployment times by 30x.
- Designed and deployed a scalable Python REST API, enabling access to up-to-date information on show schedules, archive recordings, and DJ profiles for over 1000 monthly users.
- Designed and integrated a relational database to replace data published manually in the source code, allowing non-developers to update site content.
- Designed and implemented a role-based access control system and SSO-enabled login to ensure data security for DJs and admin users.
- Coordinated interviews with 10 stakeholders across the organization, leading to UX improvements that boosted user satisfaction.

Undergraduate AI Research Lead

Soros Lab, Barnard College

May 2024 – Dec. 2024

New York, NY

- Promoted to team lead in 3 months for strong leadership, organization, and communication skills.
- Cut approx. 10 hours per week of test runtime by parallelizing experiment trials (~7x speedup).
- Designed and implemented a testing GUI in Python using Tkinter, cutting configuration time in half by eliminating manual file updates.
- Mentored 3 teammates in Git and GitHub, improving team collaboration and version control practices.

EDUCATION

Barnard College, Columbia University

New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science

Sept. 2021 – Dec. 2024

Selected courses: Design for Generative AI, Entrepreneurship, NLP

GPA: 3.81/4.00

PROJECTS

Privacy Guardian | Python (Flask), React, OpenAI API, Vercel

Sept. 2024 – Feb. 2025

- Designed and built a full-stack React app to help users evaluate jargon-filled privacy policies using generative AI.
- Tested new features on 10 users while iterating on technical prototype, increasing user satisfaction by 30%.
- Increased user trust in the model's accuracy by implementing a feature that displayed citations alongside the model's claims.