Christiana Nardi

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Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA — Expected Graduation: May 2027
Master of Science in Computer Science, Minor: Artificial Intelligence
GPA: 3.9, Dean's List (2023 – 2025)

Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN — Aug. 2022 – May 2023
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
GPA: 4.0, Dean's List (2022 – 2023)

Relevant Courses

Artificial Intelligence, Introduction to Machine Learning, Fundamentals of Software Engineering, Databases, Algorithm Analysis with Advanced Data Structures, Essentials of Artificial Intelligence, Programming Languages, Computer Systems, Computer Organization, Data Structure & Object-Oriented Programming, Introduction to Discrete Structures, Introduction to Theory of Computation, Fundamentals of Programming, Essence of Computing, Computing & Data Ethics, Calculus with Analytic Geometry, Linear Algebra, Precalculus with Algebra, Precalculus with Trigonometry, Statistics, Introduction to Game Development

Computer Languages: *Java, C, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, Python, C#, Shell, LC-3 Assembly*

Computer Software: *Eclipse, Visual Studio, IntelliJ IDEA, Terminal, Ubuntu, Jupyter, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Keras, Unity, Blender, Microsoft Office Suite, Git*

Soft skills: *Communication & collaboration, time management & dependability, creativity & problem-solving*

Relevant Experience

Research Assistant, VCU SELabs, *https://github.com/vcuse* — May 2025 – Current

- *Aiding in designing and developing a full-stack web application for the use of doctors and specialists in assessing stroke patients on real-time video-calls*
- *Utilizing TypeScript, TailwindCSS, and React/Next.js for building and styling front-end components such as dashboards, interior pages, and user forms*
- *Utilizing Express/Node.js in building and handling back-end components such as user authentication*
- *Helping with debugging issues such as token clearing & validation logic and interactive features in real-time peer-to-peer communication*

AI Studio Fellow, Verizon, *https://github.com/cbekk/verizon-ai-studio-project* — Aug. 2024 – Dec. 2024

- *Collaborated with a team in developing a machine learning model for a study based on unstructured data; the goal was to train AI models on customer sentiments toward telecommunication brands in the US*
- *Leveraged tools such as Python's pandas, scikit-learn, spaCy, and transformers*
- *Performed data cleaning and exploration, LLM research and selection, model parameter tuning, LLM sentiment analysis training, model evaluations and optimizations, and mapped visualizations*

Academic Projects

Cornell University, *https://github.com/cbekk/my-projects/blob/main/DefineAndSolveMLProblem.ipynb*

- *Designed a machine-learning model that predicts suitable dog breeds for novice owners utilizing Python libraries such as NumPy, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, and Matplotlib*

- *Optimized the model's performance using a dataset of about 400 samples by handling 3 missing data points, engineering 24 select features through careful inspection, and performing hyperparameter tuning with the adjustment of aspects such as sample quantities and depths*
- *Raised the accuracy score by approximately 56% and determined the Random Forest model as the most efficient in generalization after thoroughly comparing 4 different model types*

Virginia Commonwealth University

- *Developed C-based programs including an employee database with file I/O, sorting, and search features, and a custom shell supporting built-in and external commands*
- *Developed a program using Java programming that parses two input files— an AVL tree containing keywords is made from the first, and the second is examined for invalid identifiers by traversing the keyword tree*
- *Created a generic stack using Java programming that parses a webpage and determines whether the tags are balanced*

Independent Projects

- *Created a portfolio website utilizing HTML, CSS, and JavaScript programming https://cbekk.github.io/*
- *Currently developing a 2D game utilizing C# and Unity, which contains self-made character designs and animations, and code that connects an interface and artificial intelligence to the hand-drawn assets*

Other Work Experience

Business Manager, Entrepreneurship, Richmond, VA — Dec. 2016 – Present

- *Successfully establishing relationships with local communities to promote entrepreneurship and exchange business across the United States and 6 other countries; effectively held booths to advertise and promote services and managed finances and supplies https://www.instagram.com/christianaportraits*

Certifications

Online Machine Learning Course Certification, Cornell University — May 2024 – Aug. 2024

- *Collaboratively learned how to create machine learning models. Relevant coursework included Data Structures, Exploratory Data Analysis, Dataset Building, Training Regression Models, and Natural Language Modeling*

FBI Cyber Collegiate Academy Certification — Oct. 2024

- *Gained valuable experience and insight into international hacking, cybersecurity defense and research, and the utilization of technology in apprehending cyber criminals*

Leadership Experience

- Selected from 100,000+ applicants as an HSF Scholar, a program made to empower Hispanic and Latinx students in their journey towards achieving a better education
- Selected from 3000+ applicants for Break Through Tech AI, a year-long fellowship program designed to support women and other underrepresented people in AI, ML, and Data Science
- Led a team of 5 members in a PBE competition, making it to the final level and placing in first among national and international teams
- Actively engaged in the Women in STEM club, a community-focused association dedicated to supporting women in their STEM careers by organizing networking events, conducting collaborative activities, and hosting inspiring speakers