DREW GJERSTAD

DoD Secret Clearance | Minneapolis, MN | (■■■) ■■■–■■■■ | drewgjerstad12@gmail.com | github.com/drewgjerstad

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota **2022–2026**
Bachelor of Science in Data Science, Minor in Mathematics. GPA: 3.6. *Minneapolis, MN*

- *Honors Thesis:* Combinatorial Bayesian Optimization driven by Deep Generative Models
- *Awards:* Iron Range Scholarship (2022 – 2026), Dean's List for Academic Excellence (2023 – 2025)
- *Activities:* University Honors Program, University of Minnesota Rocket Team
- *PhD applications in progress; decision expected early Spring 2026.*

Anoka-Ramsey Community College **2020–2022**
Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences. GPA: 3.91. *Coon Rapids, MN*

EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota, Department of Computer Science & Engineering **September 2025–**
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (CSCI 5541: Natural Language Processing) *Minneapolis, MN*

- Delivering recitations on tools for prototyping, developing, and managing machine and deep learning code.
- Holding office hours to provide students with accessible support for lecture topic and coursework questions.
- Performing grading and reviewal tasks to provide timely, actionable feedback to students.

University of Minnesota, Department of Computer Science & Engineering **November 2024–**
Undergraduate Researcher (Supervisor: Professor Aryan Deshwal) *Minneapolis, MN*

- *Research Focus:* Sequential decision-making under uncertainty using Bayesian optimization and reinforcement learning to accelerate scientific discovery and engineering design in high-dimensional and mixed-variable settings.
- Designing Bayesian optimization loops in BoTorch (Python) for high-dimensional, combinatorial objectives.
- Developing Gaussian Process models in GPyTorch (Python) for modeling black-box objective functions.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division **May 2024–August 2024**
Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) *Bethesda, MD*

- Conducted a facility characterization test to validate the capabilities of a variable-pressure water tunnel.
- Performed a systematic review of the water tunnel's standard operating procedures, hardware, and software.
- Developed a real-time and post-processing analysis tool and UI in MATLAB for facility characterization tests.
- Prototyped data inference methods in Python and MATLAB for integration with an Oracle APEX database.

Optum **June 2023–August 2023**
Data Scientist Intern *Minneapolis, MN*

- Modeled business data in Tableau to identify opportunities to reduce issue turnaround time and issue volume.
- Built interactive dashboards in Tableau for an overview of integrations, root cause analysis, and control charts.
- Automated data governance processes in Python to verify proposed data models follow specified conventions.
- Developed an automated data quality assurance workflow in Python to validate Snowflake data lakes.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) **September 2025–**
Student Member (University of Minnesota)

Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) **September 2025–**
Student Member (University of Minnesota)

LANGUAGES & TOOLS

Languages: Python, MATLAB, R, Julia, C++, SQL, LaTeX
Libraries: Matplotlib, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, TensorFlow, PyTorch, GPyTorch, BoTorch, JuMP
Tools: Git, GitHub, Weights & Biases, Docker, Tableau, Snowflake, PostgreSQL, Microsoft Excel