

David Zhan

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

May 2026

Masters of Science in Computer Science, Bachelors of Science in Computer Science

GPA: 4.0/4.0

- **Minors:** Mathematics, Data Science
- **Coursework:** Data Structures and Algorithms, Data Systems, Operating Systems, Machine Learning/AI, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Cloud Computing, Deep Learning, Network Systems
- **Involvements** Penn Aerial Robotics (Software Lead), Machine Learning Research @ Penn, Penn Club Soccer, Penn Club Badminton, Math 1410 Teaching Assistant

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Machine Learning Engineer Intern

May 2025– Present

Amazon — PyTorch, AWS Bedrock/Sagemaker/EKS/EC2, Kubernetes

Sunnyvale, CA

- Core AGI team
- Implement new distributed training pipelines for mid-training using data augmentation for Nova base models

Software Team Lead

August 2024 – Present

Penn Aerial Robotics — Python, ROS2, PX4, OpenCV, C++

Philadelphia, PA

- Spearheaded the development of a computer vision payload detection algorithm for UAVs utilizing binary thresholding
- Developed internal position representation from drone camera using RANSAC and ROS2 integration
- This high-accuracy system will compete in SAE Aero Design 2025.

Software Engineer Intern

June – August 2024

Ventoscity — Flutter, NodeJS, Typescript, SQLite

College Park, MD

- Redesigned cross-platform mobile app using Flutter, achieving 20% faster load times and 30% smaller app size.
- Integrated AI-powered food scanning with 90% accuracy for portion sizes and fiber content analysis.
- Conducted extensive user testing with 100+ external participants implementing over 25 usability improvements, resulting in a 15% reduction in app crash rates.

Research Intern

June – August 2023

National Science Foundation — Swift, SwiftUI, C++

College Park, MD

- Developed a full-stack mobile app for emerging gut-health start up at UMD; pivotal in securing over \$1M in VC funding.
- Submitted Publication to **Nature Medicine** (Third Author)

Mobile Developer

Jan – Dec 2023

The Daily Pennsylvanian — React Native

Philadelphia, PA

- Monetized DP+ mobile app for the first time in history, increasing total revenue of the Daily Pennsylvanian by 23%

PROJECTS

News Source Classification Model — BeautifulSoup, PyTorch, scikit-learn

May 2025

- Collected and cleaned **3,800+** headlines from Fox and NBC via BeautifulSoup-powered web scraping
- Built TF-IDF and word-embedding inputs for both single-channel and multi-channel TextCNN architectures
- Optimized hyperparameters to reach **82%** accuracy and **79%** F1-score—on par with a fine-tuned BERT baseline

Data Labeler — React, Tailwind, FastAPI, Supabase, MEGA, AWS, Render

December 2024

- Dense captioning service to be used for training custom image models
- Implemented custom quality control, aggregation metrics; Amazon MechTurk for crowdsourcing data and crowd payment
- Captioned **400+** images, with a **210%** increase in words and **50%** in relevance compared to LLM generated captions

Blip — Next.js, Tailwind, TypeScript, ConvexDB, Clerk, OpenAI, Cerebras

November 2024

- Short-form audio social media platform encouraging micro-learning during transition periods of the day
- Out of **500+** participants competing, winner of **PennApps XXV: Best Entertainment Hack**

Part-Of-Speech Tagger — Python, numpy

September 2024

- Hidden Markov Model implementation using **Viterbi, Beam Search and Greedy** inference methods for POS tagging
- Using English Penn Treebank dataset for training; achieved a **96.3%** accuracy on randomized test set
- Model ranked top 2 in a 400+ graduate student class

AWARDS

Submission to Nature Medicine (Third Autho)

2025

Smart Underwear: A Novel Wearable for Long-Term Monitoring Of Gut Microbial Gas Production Via Flatus

PennApps XXV: Best Entertainment Hack

2024

AIME Qualifier

2022

National Merit Scholar

2021

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C, Swift, Dart, JavaScript, Typescript, SQL

Frameworks: React, NodeJS, NextJS, Tailwind, Bootstrap, Flutter, FastAPI, Flask, Django

Tools: Docker, Kubernetes, AWS

Machine Learning: SageMaker, Bedrock, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, PyTorch