

# Ethan Leyden

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## EDUCATION

### Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Concentration in Data Science, GPA: 4.0*

Richmond, VA

*Expected May 2025*

### Mitchell Community College

*Associate's in Science*

Statesville, NC

*August 2014 – May 2019*

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages:** Python, Java, C/C++, MySQL, JavaScript/TypeScript, HTML/CSS, Common Lisp, Swift, PHP, Lua, LaTeX

**Frameworks:** pandas, numpy, React, Node.js, Bootstrap, jQuery, p5.js/Processing

**Tools:** pip, npm, git, Linux (Arch, Mint, Ubuntu), SLURM, Figma, Wordpress, JSON, XML, Vi/Vim/Neovim

## EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate Research Assistant

*VCU NanoNLP Lab*

May 2024 – Present

*Richmond, VA*

- Weekly presentations on some of the latest research in natural language processing.
- *GeNER*: Contributed to research about using large language models to generate synthetic training data for Named Entity Recognition (NER) systems.
- Hands-on experience using high performance computing systems to build and train machine-learning models.

### Tech Admin

*Digital Neighbor*

December 2023 – November 2024

*Remote/Tampa, FL*

- Leveraging the latest SEO best practices to boost engagement on client websites
- Implementing, updating, and monitoring client websites to be equipped with the necessary tools to track marketing leads.
- Troubleshooting issues on short-notice to ensure a seamless user-experience.

### Team Leader

*Target T1931*

September 2020 – Present

*Richmond, VA*

- Demonstrate competent leadership for a team of 3-15 people, resulting in workload completion ahead of schedule.
- Proven track record of prioritizing the business needs, and as a result, gained a lot of business acumen.
- Oversaw various departments throughout the store, learning how to manage competing priorities in the best interest of the company.

## PROJECTS

### GeNER | *Python, PyTorch Lightning, git, Jupyter Notebook, SLURM*

- Research project on the generation of synthetic NER training data using LLMs.
- Expanded support to utilize the Llama3 LLM for data generation
- Documented project setup to improve accessibility for future contributors
- Performed preprocessing tasks on the CONLL2003 dataset, and helped adapt the system for other available NER datasets.
- Filtering synthetic samples by the cosine similarity to real data, and experimented with filtered results.

### RVA Community Fridges, Senior Capstone | *LoRa, Meshtastic, Arduino/C++, git*

- Levered LoRa microcontrollers to wirelessly transmit data from 15 community fridges in the Greater Richmond Area
- As Project Manager, structured an Agile workflow for a team of four people, conducting weekly sprints with mentorship from a faculty advisor.

### React Color Picker | *React, npm, HTML/CSS, Javascript/Typescript*

- Designed and built a color picker tool using the React framework, demonstrating competency in the technologies used for front-end web development, as well as competency in UI/UX design.