

John Yaklin

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering

December 2025 (expected graduation)

GPA 4.0/4.0

Black Hawk College – Moline, IL

Associate of Science in mechanical engineering

June 2021 – May 2023

GPA 4.0/4.0

- Applied ASME Y14 standards to create engineering drawings and bills of materials in AutoCAD

Experience

Robotacist, iRobotics – Urbana, IL

September 2023 – present

- Designed, built, and tested a custom 3D printed bearing for combat robots
- Developed a circuit board to drive motors, communicate with serial devices, and display sensor data
- Wrote a custom motion control framework in embedded C for a microcontroller on the board
- Identified key information from electrical datasheets and block diagrams

Engineering Lead, FIRST Tech Challenge – Bettendorf, IA

April 2020 – June 2023

- Led team of 15 in designing, building, programming, and testing 14 unique robots
- Identified bottlenecks and drove improvements to design, fabrication, and testing procedures
- Developed a cross-team review process to ensure compliance with deadlines and regulations
- Consulted with industry professionals to explore new engineering opportunities

Robotacist, FIRST Tech Challenge – Bettendorf, IA

May 2018 – June 2023

- Designed actuators, frames, and powertrains in PTC Creo and Onshape
- Fabricated hundreds of 3D printed, sheet metal, and composite parts
- Analyzed hardware tests, strategy metrics, and material costs with Excel
- Documented design process, iterations, detail drawings, and test results in an engineering notebook

Courtesy Clerk, HyVee – Milan, IL

May 2024 – August 2024 (seasonal)

- Bagged items, moved shopping carts, collected litter, and provided friendly customer service

Skills

Design

- Creo, Onshape, Inventor, AutoCAD, nTop, Moldflow

Programming/Analysis

- Java, Python, C, MATLAB, Excel

Awards

Inspire Award – FIRST Tech Challenge Iowa Championship

- Helped robotics team earn recognition as #1 team in Iowa for 4 consecutive years