Kayla Nguyen

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at Dallas Richardson, TX

B.S. Computer Science, Minor in Economics | GPA: 3.83 *Dec 2026*

SKILLS

Languages: Python, SQL, Java, C++, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

Technologies & Tools: Git, React, Docker, Linux, Apache Spark, Oracle SQL Developer

EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Dallas Richardson, TX

Research Assistant *May 2024 – Present*

- Collaborated with teams of PhD researchers and peers to build and test data pipelines processing 200+ hours of multi-channel neural recordings across hundreds of experiments, reducing manual labor by 40%
- Leveraged HPC clusters, Shell scripts, and virtual environments to execute large-scale pipelines efficiently, ensuring reproducible processing and seamless dependency management across systems
- Integrated hardware and software systems, synchronizing timestamped data to produce reliable datasets for downstream anaysis

Carrollton Family Dentistry Dallas, TX

Software Developer *May 2023 - Present*

- Developing a web-based patient management platform that doubles access speed, digitizes paper records, and enables staff to retrieve patient information within seconds while ensuring data consistency
- Creating a lightweight, intuitive web interface integrated with backend data storage systems, allowing non-technical staff to efficiently query, filter, and access records, reducing manual labor and human errors

PROJECTS

Movie Recommendation Engine | *Apache Spark, Python, BeautifulSoup*

- Designed a scalable machine learning system using collaborative filtering to predict user movie preferences by analyzing Letterboxd profile data, performing distributed data processing on over 400 entries per execution, and incorporating automated web scraping for streamlined dataset collection

Facial Similarity Detector | *OpenCV, MediaPipe*

- Built a real-time facial similarity detector in Python that compares a user's face from a live video feed against a dataset of dog images to identify the most visually similar match, utilizing facial landmark recognition and optimized geometric and color-based comparisons

Web-Based Tic-Tac-Toe | *React.js*

- Developed an interactive two-player Tic-Tac-Toe web application using component-based architecture and state management to deliver responsive, real-time gameplay

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Cyber Security Club, Secretary / Graphic Designer *Aug 2023 – May 2025*

- Coordinated guest speaker events and information sessions that boosted member participation and student engagement by 20%, while designing digital content using tools like Figma or hand-drawn illustrations to enhance the club's online presence and strengthen outreach to students and industry partners

Baking for a Cause, Vice President *Jan 2022 – Present*

- Directed large-scale community baking initiatives delivering thousands of baked goods to local shelters across DFW, managing fundraising, marketing, and logistics operations that generated more than $1,000 annually through nonprofit bake sales and member contributions