Namitchandra Chowdary Nallapaneni

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EDUCATION

College of William & Mary, Williamsburg VA - May 2026 - Current GPA: 3.67
Major: Bachelor of Science in Computational Applied Mathematics and Statistics: Mathematical Biology Minor: Biology

AWARDS & HONORS

- Charles Center Honors Fellowship, William & Mary (2025)
- MASBN Travel Award, Mid-Atlantic Synthetic Biology Network Symposium in Newark, Delaware (2025)
- iGEM 2024 – Gold Medal, Global Top 10 Undergraduate Team (Top U.S. Team) at the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition in Paris, France; nominated for Best Foundational Advance Project & Best Software Tool

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Intern
University of Chicago Genetic Services Laboratories – Bioinformatics Department
Jun. 2025 – Present
- Improving OncoPlus, a clinical software pipeline for cancer variant detection, by streamlining workflows with Python and Nextflow.
- Investigating AI-based methods to enhance sensitivity and accuracy in pathogenic mutation detection.

Honors Researcher
Bio-adaptable Musculoskeletal Materials Lab (Ba.M.M. Lab) at William & Mary
Dec. 2024 – Present
- Executing a faculty-mentored thesis on stem cell-laden hydrogel implants for intervertebral disc repair under diabetic conditions.
- Optimizing secretome-infused bioinks and evaluating hydrogel performance through degradation kinetics and cell migration models.
- Building the lab's external website and internal protocol repository to support research communication and collaboration.

Undergraduate Researcher
William and Mary iGEM Team (International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition)
Jan. 2024 – Nov. 2024
- Investigated phage satellites as regulatory elements for genetic circuit control in complex environments; conducted wet-lab validation through plasmid design, PCR, and Gibson assembly.
- Developed SaPhARI, a modular software tool for satellite phage detection and classification (Python, Nextflow, Docker), along with public-facing documentation and a project wiki to support accessibility and community use.

Research Assistant
Plant Evolution Lab at William and Mary
Feb. 2023 – Jan. 2024
- Processed and quantified stomatal and trichome traits in *Asclepias* (milkweed) species to examine morphological variation.
- Investigated species-level differences in soil nutrients and microbiomes using dimensionality reduction techniques (PCA, t-SNE) for data visualization and interpretation.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Computational Support Intern
Office of Institutional Research at William and Mary Information Technology
Jun. 2023 – Jan. 2024
- Verified institutional survey data, aligned reporting with IPEDS/CDS databases, and built visualizations for the William & Mary Fact Book; maintained department web page content via Cascade CMS.

Code "Sensei"/Instructor
Code Ninjas Glen Allen
Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2022
- Led engaging coding lessons in Scratch and JavaScript for students ages 6–14; designed summer camps and drove enrollment growth through creative outreach and marketing efforts.

LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULARS

- President of International Mini Mart, a student-led cultural initiative supporting diverse food access and community-building through campus pop-ups (Jan. 2024 – present).
- Fundraising Chair for the South Asian Student Association, overseeing 2023–24 efforts that raised $2,000+ for international relief through collaborative student events.
- Volunteered 120+ hours over the past year with the Hindu Center of Virginia, mentoring youth and contributing to cultural and intergenerational programming.
- Awarded the Eagle Scout rank in 2022 for leading a capstone service project to design and build a community recreation space at a local temple.