# Christy Yu

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## EDUCATION

**Carnegie Mellon University**     4.0 GPA | Aug. 2025 – Aug. 2026
*Masters in Human Computer Interaction, School of Computer Science*     *Pittsburgh, PA*

**UC Santa Barbara**     3.75 GPA | Aug. 2021 – Jun. 2025
*B.S. Computer Science, Statistical Science Minor*     *Santa Barbara, CA*

## SKILLS

**Design**: Visual UI, Prototyping, Usability Testing, UX Research, Figma, Photoshop, InDesign
**Languages**: Python, C++, Java, HTML/CSS/Javascript, TypeScript, Bash, R, SQL, MATLAB, SAS, Scheme

## EXPERIENCE

**UI/UX Design Intern**     Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025
*Dawdle AI – Science-backed Anti-Procrastination App Startup*     *San Jose, CA*
- Designed UI for anti-procrastination app using AI coaching and productivity timers, delivering 30+ screens shipped to App Store launch with 200+ users and 5-star rating
- Featured in KCBS radio (San Francisco) and UC Santa Barbara's The Current
- As sole designer, collaborated with founder and engineers to iterate on AI coaching features based on beta feedback throughout development
- Built 40-component design system in **Figma**, enabling consistent UI across features and reducing design-to-dev iteration cycles by **25%**

**Founding Frontend Web Engineer & Designer**     Oct. 2024 – Aug. 2025
*JAFFX — open-source guitar pedal startup*     *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Created pitch deck that secured **2nd place and $7,500** in funding at UCSB New Ventures Competition
- Designed complete brand identity (logo, typography, color system) and company website
- Built responsive website using **(Next.js)** (live at jaffx.audio)

**Software Engineer Intern**     Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024
*Lorentz Solution*     *Santa Clara, CA*
- Migrated all 44 dynamic libraries from compiler RHEL6 to RHEL78 for PeakView chip-simulation**(Bash scripting)**
- Reduced **10%** in backup storage and production release package by automating library clean-up process
- Executed regression unit tests on circuit simulation cases; analyzed, debugged and troubleshot on the updated libraries for upcoming release of PeakView software

**Data Analyst Research Fellowship**     Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2025
*Human Wildlife Conflict emLab*     *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Co-authored (3rd author) research manuscript (under review) on climate-driven human-elephant conflict in Namibia
- Build and tune **habit suitability machine learning models** with bioclimatic variables and land cover data to explore how climate change drives human-elephant conflict in **R**

## PROJECTS

**Refract** | Anti-deepfake ID Protection ML software     Jan. 2024 - May. 2024
* Built AI model and frontend app **(Tailwind/Javascript/CSS, Figma)** that disrupts identity-theft deepfakes model training, research poster winning 2nd in annual showcase
* Cloaked images **disrupts deepfake models by 70%** with no visual difference to the human eye

**Disability Accommodations Advocacy LLM** | UX Researcher & Designer     Nov. 2025 - Present
* Designed conversational AI webapp helping students with disabilities navigate accommodations, leading user research through 3 interviews and usability testing
* Performed literature review on accessibility solutions, collaborated with developers to create system prompt and **RAG-powered AI** product interfaces
* Usability testing showed all users found LLM-assisted workflow **reduced mental load by 20%**

**Empowering Instagram Artists in the Age of GenAI** | UX Researcher     Aug. 2025 - Dec. 2025
* Conducted 10 directed storytelling interviews with small Instagram artists to understand their generative AI experiences, synthesizing 200+ interpretation notes by affinity mapping, empathy mapping, and cultural modeling
* Presented research insights and design recommendations at course showcase, proposing AI transparency features, community trust initiatives, and creator protection tools

**Other projects on GitHub**