

Rakesh Pillai

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EDUCATION

Virginia Tech

2025

- Calhoun Honors Discovery Scholar (Full Tuition, Academic Merit)
- 3.94 GPA
- Major in Computer Engineering with focus on Machine Learning and minor in Computer Science
- Relevant Coursework: Differential Equations, Computational Engineering (C++), Circuits and Devices, Digital Systems, Data Structures and Algorithms

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

June, 2021

- 4.33/4.00 (Weighted GPA)
- 1570 SAT (800 Math, 770 English)
- Relevant Coursework: AP Calculus AB & BC, Multivariable Calculus and Matrix Algebra, AP Computer Science A, Parallel Computing, AP Physics C: Mechanics and Electricity and Magnetism

EXPERIENCE

Raytheon

Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023

Quality Assurance / Raytheon Fellowship Member @ VT

- Hands-on training with cybersecurity tools and techniques for applied ML and security
- Ubuntu, Python, Kali Linux
- Applied static analysis tools (Coverity) to review C++ development
- Reviewed and edited program code for clarity/readability

Slingshot

Jul. 2020 – Dec. 2020

Machine Learning Intern

- Used the React Native framework to develop a cross-platform app to collect gesture pattern (swiping, tapping, etc.) data from users
- Learned how to work with React lifecycle methods
- Utilized Firebase platform to authenticate users and store data collected from users
- Analyzed data collected from app using Python and a K-Nearest-Neighbor algorithm

Research

Responsible Data Science Lab

Jun. 2023 – Present

Volunteer

- Exploring adversarial machine learning attacks on large language models
- Weekly meetings discussing research and projects

Mind Music Machine Lab

Feb. 2023 – May. 2023

Volunteer

- Sonified hand motion sensor data to help people learn how to crochet
- Created poster for Industrial Systems Engineering symposium @ Virginia Tech

CCI Battledrone Competition

Oct. 2021 – Dec. 2021

Volunteer

- Created a competition for college and high school students across the nation
- Built autonomous drone navigation code in Python
- Gained experience with Linux
- Used 3D printing, soldering, and lab equipment to design the drone kits

Projects

PolitiLink

Feb. 2023

Hackathon Project for HackViolet

- Used OpenAI GPT 3 to analyze a paragraph and identify Congress committees that align with the themes of text
- Built Flask server that handles post requests, scrapes websites, and traverses a database of committees
- Won Most Innovative Hack

Irys

Oct. 2021

Hackathon Project for HackDuke

- Built a web app using Node.js and React
- Constructed a python script using preexisting libraries to track eye movement and determine when the user is distracted from the screen
- Connected the web app to CockroachDB to store collected data
- Won 3rd place in the Health and Wellness track @ HackDuke Code for Good

Pokécounter

Dec. 2021

Personal Project

- Built a website using the Django framework @ www.pokecounter.net
- Improved CSS, Python, HTML, and JavaScript skills
- Implemented different algorithms and data structures

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Skills:** Java (proficient), Python (comfortable), Web Dev (HTML, CSS, JS) (comfortable), C (comfortable), Verilog (comfortable)
- **Interests:** adversarial machine learning, security, algorithm, optimization