

NICHOLAS TAPP - HUGHES

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Full-Stack Engineer focused on building web, AI/ML, and data applications that meet stakeholder needs; experienced solving ambiguous problems, owning critical systems, and working directly with end users.

EXPERIENCE

Software Developer

Epic Systems Corp., July 2023–July 2025

- Architected a system that enabled hospital admins to configure clinical follow-ups from medical imaging insights.
- Drove 20% performance gain (measured by realistic experimentation) and UX improvements (measured by user feedback) in 2 application components by migrating them from Visual Basic to .NET/C# and React.
- Wrote 2 technical designs, presented to customers, and collected user feedback for an LLM-extracted insights project which resulted in earlier diagnosis for 70% of lung cancer cases at The Christ Hospital.
- Shipped 62 bug fixes across the client, server, and databases to 500+ healthcare systems.
- Observed pain points, collected feedback, and facilitated installs during 20 days spent on-site with end users.

Graduate Student Researcher

UNC Computer Science, Aug 2021–May 2023

- Published a 22% improvement in autism classification accuracy on a 3D mesh hippocampus dataset by developing new methods for extracting interpretable statistical features of 3D objects (*Journal of Math. Vision and Imaging*).
- Boosted research lab productivity by maintaining our Python repo, developing scripts for orchestrating experimentation, cleaning datasets, and introducing visualization tools.

Graduate Research Assistant

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, Aug 2021–June 2025

- Improved policymakers' understanding of smoking behavior in the US adult population by building a microsimulation model that predicts year-over-year smoking behavior at the individual level.
- Accelerated the project team's productivity and synchronization by maintaining the codebase, building robust data pipelines, sharing regular results, recommending technologies, and onboarding new people.
- Published in PLoS One and Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

Software Engineering R&D Intern

Sila Nanotechnologies Inc., June 2022–Aug 2022

- Improved physical measurement accuracy in chemical R&D processes by developing improvements to a proprietary computer vision pipeline, writing documentation, and advising future development strategy.

PROJECTS & SYSTEMS BUILT

Evolutionary Skeletal Representations Algorithm

An algorithmic pipeline for determining salient statistical features of 3D objects using skeletal representations and differential geometric processing, implemented with Python, C++, and shell scripts.

Smoking Behavior Microsimulation Model

A 2nd order Markov chain multinomial logistic regression model simulating the smoking behavior of individuals over the course of their lifetimes, scaled up to the entire US adult population. Predicts smoking behavior, mortality, and incidence of disease based on individual and societal factors. Accompanied by large-scale data analysis.

Nick Tapp-Hughes's Blog

A personal website and blog built using React/Vite and hosted on AWS (Amplify, S3, Lambda, SES) with Cloudflare DNS services. Supports verified subscribers and automatically converts Google Docs to HTML blog posts.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Pizer, S. M., Liu, Z., Zhao, J., **Tapp-Hughes, N.**, Damon, J., Zhang, M., Marron, J. S., Taheri, M., Vicory, J., *Interior Object Geometry via Fitted Frames*, Available: Springer, <https://rdcu.be/eFX0G>.
- Mills, S. D., **Tapp-Hughes, N.**, Zhang, Y., Ribisl, K. M., Wiesen, C. A., & Hassmiller Lich, K., *The impact of a menthol cigarette ban on tobacco use, lung cancer, and life expectancy*, Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine or Tobacco, Baltimore, MD.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, C++, C#, Rust, SQL, TypeScript, Bash, MUMPS

Frameworks & Tooling: AWS, .NET, React, SQL Server, Testing, Debugging, CMake, Hugging Face, AI Assisted Dev

Other: Design Patterns, System Design, User-Centered Design, Linux, LLM APIs, Data Cleaning, Math & Statistics

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.S. Applied Mathematics, B.S. Computer Science

- Cumulative GPA: 3.92/4, Math GPA: 3.87/4, CS GPA: 3.97/4

M.S. Computer Science

August 2017–May 2021

August 2021–May 2023