

Tikiri Ekanayake

(352) 631-9483 | tm.ekanayake4@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/tikiri-ekanayake](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tikiri-ekanayake) | github.com/tikirie

EDUCATION

University of Florida

Dec. 2025

Bachelor of Science in Data Science

GPA: 3.84/4.00

- Minor in Japanese Language & Literature
- Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals and Applications
- **Courses:** Data Structures & Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Probability, Regression Analysis, Data Engineering (Coursera)

SKILLS

Languages: Python, C++, R, MATLAB, HTML, SQL

Developer Tools: PostgreSQL, SQLite, Tableau, GitHub, Microsoft Office 365, Godot, Docker, Postman

EXPERIENCE

Natural Hair Headquarters

Remote

Research Intern

May 2024 – Present

- Researched hair and scalp issues to create personalized hair care routines and recommend products for those with textured hair.
- Collaborated with other interns to maintain the website and analyze user data.

American Express

Remote

Senior Project Manager Shadow

Aug. – Dec. 2023

- Created a project under the guidance of a Senior Project Manager, Manager of MIS and Analytics, and Director of Automation.
- Developed a machine learning-based American Express credit card recommendation system and mock data set based on American Express card users' spending habits.
- Researched machine learning concepts and cemented understanding through meeting weekly with mentors.

Dayton Group, Inc

Columbia, MD

Data Entry Intern

Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023

- Populated and maintained a proprietary database of 1,000+ reviewed and tagged USACE FUDS and FUSRAP documents.
- Improved document and data storage, retrieval, and analysis processes by 70% by digitizing documents.
- Collaborated with a team to develop standard reviewing protocols across databases, enhancing consistency by 40%.

PROJECTS

Bite Back

Apr. 2024

- Cleaned dataset and assisted in coding the backend for an interactive meal nutrition calculator and diet recommender.
- Coded the Hash table's implementation, nutrition calculator, and algorithm to recommend 5 foods to supplement the user's diet.
- Compared the runtime of Hash Table and Graph implementations for storing and retrieving from ~250,000 data points.

Gator Brains

Mar. 2024

- Created a collaborative study platform for students to find and join peers studying for the same course at the local library during a 24-hour hackathon.
- Developed the backend using Flask, SQLAlchemy with SQLite as the database, and Flask-SQLAlchemy for integration.
- Utilized Docker for containerization and CORS to manage cross-origin requests, and Postman for API testing and development.

HIV Prevalence Models

Dec. 2023

- Organized data on the age, race, transmission, gender, and year of contraction of American HIV patients using pandas, JSON, Matplotlib, and statsmodels.
- Illustrated possible relations between demographics by creating ANOVA, T-tests, and a choropleth map, along with predictions for areas most-likely to be impacted by HIV.

LEADERSHIP

Pride Student Union

Gainesville, FL

Treasurer (Previously Finance Director)

May 2023 – Present

- Organized and obtained event budgets of up to \$10K for a "Big 9" student organization, devoting appropriate amounts to venues, merchandise, food, programming, awards, and honorariums.
- Oversaw 70+ purchase requests of over \$150 from other board members for socials, events, and general body meetings.
- Led a team of Finance Directors to create budgets and assist in holding fundraisers, obtaining over \$3K per semester.
- Assisted in making activity and organization decisions as a member of the executive board, nurturing a safe environment for the LGBTQ+ community at UF.

Women in Computer Science and Engineering

Gainesville, FL

Peer Mentor

Aug. 2023 – May 2024

- Mentored two underclassmen also majoring in Data Science and assisted in academics.
- Provided technical instruction, professional advice, and guidance to other mentees in the program.