

William L. Anderson

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Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison Sept 2023 – May 2027 (Exp.)

- BS in Computer Sciences, Data Science, and Mathematics with Certificate in Public Policy
- GPA: 4.0/4.0, Honors in the Major: Computer Sciences, Sophomore Research Fellowship, 4x Dean's List
- Received highest overall score out of more than 400 students in CS 577: Intro to Algorithms.

Minnetonka High School Sept 2019 – June 2023

- 4.6 GPA, 36 ACT, National Merit Finalist, AP Capstone, Digital Service Club Cofounder, Varsity Swim Captain
- Senior Research Project: *Predicting Pseudorandom Number Generators with Artificial Neural Networks*

Research

Summer Research Fellow – UChicago Existential Risks Lab – Chicago, IL June 2025 – Present

- Researched safety and security in Large Language Model (LLM)-based multi-agent systems.
- Selected as one of 15 fellows across AI, climate, nuclear, and biological risk from more than 320 applicants.

Student Researcher – Yiqiao Zhong Lab – Madison, WI January 2025 – Present

- Worked on understanding LLM reasoning through chain-of-thought perturbation and causal analysis.
- One of only 40 students across all fields to receive UW–Madison's Sophomore Research Fellowship.

Student Researcher – Junjie Hu Lab – Madison, WI October 2024 – Present

- Studied LLM generalization during pretraining and developed efficient model editing techniques.

Independent Study – Alignment Research Engineer Accelerator – Remote June 2024 – August 2024

- Trained image generation and computer vision models, Transformer-based language models, and Reinforcement Learning agents with Proximal Policy Optimization, building valuable research and engineering skills.
- Performed interpretability analyses to develop mechanistic understanding of how LLMs complete complex tasks.

Leadership and Involvement

Wisconsin AI Safety Initiative – Madison, WI September 2023 – Present

Director

April 2025 - Present

- Directed 30 person leadership team to coordinate large-scale education and upskilling programs, university relations, professional networking, and student outreach for organization with 120+ members and \$7,500 budget.

Operations Lead

April 2024 – April 2025

- Presented an interactive demo to 100+ U.S. Congressional staffers, policymakers, and journalists in Washington, D.C. on the capabilities and risks of multi-AI-agent systems at the Center for AI Policy's Advanced AI Exposition.
- Organized interdisciplinary panel on AI with professors from Computer Sciences, Philosophy, and Education.
- Facilitated advanced technical reading group, attended advanced policy reading group, designed curricula, scheduled 10+ weekly meetings, led projects, managed budget, and advised in hiring of new AI faculty.
- Awarded \$5,500 OpenPhil University Organizer Fellowship for impactful community-building work.

Cofounder – Digital Service Club – Minnetonka, MN September 2021 – June 2023

- Refurbished and redistributed 200+ devices and taught computer science to 75+ elementary schoolers.

Presentations

- *Replacement Models for Interpretability*, Yiqiao Zhong Reading Group, Madison, WI, 2025
- *A Case for Responsible AI*, IT Professionals Conference, Madison, WI, 2025
- *Security Risks in LLM Multiagent Systems*, Center for AI Policy Congressional Exposition, Washington, DC, 2025

Work History

Lifeguard Supervisor (Seasonal) – City of Deephaven – Deephaven, MN May 2024 - October 2024

- Conducted on-the-job training for new lifeguards, teaching emergency procedures, scanning, and rescues.
- Worked with city administrators to ensure that new lifeguard program followed Red Cross and legal guidelines.

Lead Lifeguard (Seasonal) – Minnetonka Aquatics – Minnetonka, MN May 2021 – May 2024

- Directed beach teams of up to 6 lifeguards in emergency situations, developing leadership skills under pressure.

Technical Knowledge

Languages: Python, R, C, Java, Lua, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Astro, MySQL, CQL, Bash, LaTeX

Technologies: PyTorch, TF/Keras, Docker (Compose), Spark, HDFS, Arrow, Cassandra, BigQuery, Kafka