

# Zahra Shaikhali

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## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

May 2028

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science - Minor in Entrepreneurship and Data Science

GPA 3.7

Relevant Coursework: Computer Architecture, Data Structures, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics and Probability

## EXPERIENCE

Teach Together, Austin, TX

August 2024 - Present

Startup Founder and Developer

- Founded **Teach Together**, a platform that provides **teachers** with **human-AI support** to reduce teacher **burnout**.
- Designed **Lesson Lift**, an AI tool that **generates real-world, personalized lessons** across **multimodal formats**.
- Connected **25+ teachers** with **teaching teams** and **in-class support** from college student teaching assistants.
- Conducted **100+ teacher interviews**; **97% of pilot testers** stated the MVP addressed their **largest pain points**.
- Selected for **SEAL Accelerator**, where I built a **C-Suite advisory board** and secured **mentorship** from a **VC**.
- Pitched Teach Together to investors; placed **3rd (\$500 prize)** at the **Sell Your Impact Pitch Competition**.

Lion's Den DFW, Dallas, TX

June 2025 - Present

Graphic and Web Design Intern

- Developed the **company website** (Elementor, Figma), driving **300+ attendees** to a startup-investor conference.
- Managed **logistics** for monthly events (150+ attendees), coordinating startups, investors, and keynote speakers.
- Directed **event branding** and **social media campaigns**, creating cohesive graphics to maximize engagement.

Social Entrepreneurship Learning Lab, Austin, TX

August 2024 - Present

Ideator and Incubator Fellow → Partnerships Lead

- Completed a **year-long fellowship** focused on **research, design, and product validation** for Teach Together.
- Lead the **Legacy Program**, driving **strategic visibility, funding, and mentorship** for early-stage **startups**.

Convergent, Austin, TX

August 2024 - Present

Product Lead

- Led **product strategy and development** of two **mission-driven products** from concept to **functional prototype**.
  - **SkyPal**, an accessibility overlay that visually guides elderly users through website navigation.
  - **Step Up**, an impact-focused news app that provides users with action steps after reading articles.
- Managed **cross-functional tech/design teams** using **Agile development** practices; facilitated **iterative testing**.

Southwest Airlines, Dallas, TX

June 2023 - August 2023

LEAD Ops and Scheduling Intern

- Supported training logistics for **1,000+ crew members**; streamlined **scheduling systems** and **inventory tracking**.
- Coordinated with multiple teams to improve **cross-functional operations** and internal documentation.

## PROJECTS

SideKick — AI-Powered Martial Arts Coach (Jan 2025 - Present)

- Building a **Python app** (OpenCV + Media Pipe) to analyze taekwondo movements and give real-time feedback.
- Designed a **gamified experience** to help kids **stay active** and build **self-defense skills** using interactive practice.

PrepPal — Personalized Meal Planner for College Students (Feb 2025 - August 2025)

- Built a **full-stack app** (React, Node.js) to generate meal plans based on **dietary needs, budget, and health goals**.
- Integrated **nutrition APIs to filter recipes** and **auto-generate grocery lists** aligned with the user's meal plans.

## SKILLS

Product Strategy & Roadmapping • User Research & Market Analysis • Investor Pitching & Stakeholder Communication  
• Agile (Scrum) & Cross-Functional Team Leadership • Product Design & Prototyping (Figma, UI/UX, Wireframing) •  
Web & Full-Stack Development (React, Node.js, Firebase, Python) • Systems Knowledge (Assembly, Operating Systems)

## AWARDS

- **1st Place** - YETI Innovation x Sustainability Summit Hackathon (2025) | Selected by YETI Executives
- **Finalist and Best Pitch** - Texas Product Hackathon (2025) | Selected by Venture Capitalists
- **2nd Place Nationally** - Tests of Engineering, Applied Mathematics, and Science (2024) | Out of 500+ teams
- **3rd Place (\$500)** - Sell Your Impact Pitch Competition (2025) | Selected by Investors and Venture Capitalists