

NICHOLAS GARDELLA

njg4ne@virginia.edu | (434) 962-1669 | **Portfolio:** <https://n.gardella.cc>

School: Charlottesville, VA

EDUCATION

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

August 2021 – 2026

Doctor of Philosophy- Systems & Information Engineering

- **Dissertation:** “Responsible Use of AI Code Generators in Computer Science Education”
- **Funding:** NSF GRFP for “Towards Trustworthy Human-AI Teams: Understanding How to Integrate AI Coding Companions into Software Development Teams”
- **Publication:** Gardella, Pettit, & Riggs, “Performance, Workload, Emotion, and Self-Efficacy of Novice Programmers Using AI Code Generation” (ITiCSE 2024)

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

August 2021 - May 2023

Master of Engineering- Systems & Information Engineering

- **GPA:** 3.975, **Funding:** NSF National Research Traineeship, UVA Distinguished Fellowship
- **Mentorship:** Supervised 3 undergraduates in qualitative analysis, Rust programming, Git, and containerization
- **Teaching:** Head TA for 64 student Human Machine Interface course, graded 8 deliverables
- **Publication:** Gardella & Riggs, "Establishing Natural Tactile Mappings" (IEEE Transactions on Haptics)

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

August 2018 - May 2021

Bachelor of Science- Computer Science

- **GPA:** 3.87 (3.89 in-major), **Teaching:** private Java & C programming tutor

EXPERIENCE

Web Development Instructor, New River Community College, Christiansburg, VA

December 2024 - May 2025

- Taught Client Side Scripting (ITP 225) and Web Scripting Languages (ITP 140) solo

Web Development Instructor, Self-Employed at Salesforce, San Francisco, CA

June 2022 - August 2022

- Facilitated ideation, design, and development for 24 underrepresented students on 7 web applications
- Taught React.js, Postgres DB, Express.js, JavaScript and Git project management with 2 co-instructors

Product Owner Intern, Leidos, Charlottesville, VA

May 2021 - August 2021

- Scoped and tracked work spanning 250+ tasks and 4 large software development projects
- **Certification:** Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO), Cape Project Management

Firmware Engineering Co-Op, Diebold-Nixdorf, North Canton, OH

January 2020 - May 2020

- Implemented over a dozen custom features to a Java program to improve firmware development workflow
- Triaged over 70 automated firmware test failures in C# to help reach a project goal months ahead of schedule

SKILLS

- **Programming:** (best first) JS, TS, HTML/CSS, Py, SQL, Java, R, C, Rust, Bash, C++, C#, Go, Swift, MAT
- **Projects:** Planning, ethics, data collection & analysis, writing, presenting, collaborating, and reporting

HOBBIES

- Cooking and baking, endurance and strength training, eBay selling, pickleball, electronics, web development