

Christine I. Mendoza

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Aug 2024 - Present

Doctor of Philosophy - Human-Computer Interaction | **GPA:** 3.96/4.0 | NSF GRFP Fellow

Selected Coursework: Human-AI Interaction, Urban Design Studio I (master's course in the School of Architecture), Computational Methods for Interactive Systems, Process and Theory in HCI

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

May 2024

Bachelor of Science - Computer Science (Honors Laureate), minor: Chemistry | **GPA:** 3.89/4.0 | Highest Distinction

Thesis: Luminary: An Open-Source Initiative for Crowdsourced Accessible Campus Navigation (advisor: Dr. Gary Bishop; Highest Honors, Nov 2023)

Selected Coursework: Distributed and Concurrent Algorithms (Graduate), Programming Language Concepts, Files and Databases, Digital Logic, Modern Web Programming, Inorganic Chemistry, Nutritional Biochemistry, Analytical Chemistry (H)

Central Piedmont Community College

Jul 2020

Associate of Science - Computer Science and Math Pathway | **GPA:** 4.0/4.0

Selected Coursework: Public Speaking, Developmental Psychology, Differential Equations

SKILLS

- Languages: (*Native proficiency*) English, (*Intermediate*) Spanish, Tagalog
- Professional: Public speaking, research, advocacy, community-building, leadership
- Technical: Data analysis, web development, programming
- Certifications: SAS 9.4 (Certified Specialist - Base Programming), Apollo GraphQL (Graph Developer - Associate)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Taskar Center for Accessible Technology, University of Washington

Pedestrian Accessibility Change Detection & Transportation Data Equity, mentor: Dr. Anat Caspi

Jun 2023 - Present

- **Conferences:** CSUN Assistive Technology (*March 2024*), STARS (*September 2023*)
- Automate benchmarking of vision-language models across spatial subtasks via a modular synthetic data pipeline
- Taxonomized erasure bias (content moderation, stereotypes) in representations of disability in text-to-image models
- Assessed LLM alignment for long-tail data (underrepresented groups, accessibility) with knowledge graph querying
- Integrated insights from social and environmental factors surrounding transportation in a literature review (549 articles screened, ~86 reviewed) applying graph theory to develop a framework for developing accessibility-first data standards

Reddit (Contract), Remote Locations

Avatar Artist, Gen 4

May 2023 - Sep 2025

- Introduced the first Collectible Avatars representing visible / invisible disabilities under the name Another Clay Jar (created using **Adobe Illustrator**; currently on OpenSea as NFTs)
- Raised >\$1000 via artist earnings (50% pledge) for disability-focused organizations

Department of Human-Computer Interaction, Carnegie Mellon University

Towards Humane Bus Scheduling, mentor: Dr. Sarah Fox

Aug 2024 - May 2025

- Reviewed optimization methods for transit schedules that account for driver constraints such as restroom use
- Led interview study planning and contributed to union advocacy for transit operators and schedulers

Department of Computer Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Luminary: An Open-Source Initiative for Crowdsourced Accessible Navigation, mentor: Dr. Gary Bishop *Oct 2021 - Dec 2024*

- **Invited talks:** Accessible Carolina (*August 2023*), SAS Institute Accessibility Exchange (*July 2022*)
- Authored BuildLang, a compiler for transforming room adjacency descriptions into routable **SQL** graphs
- Spearheaded an initiative to develop a framework for organizations to develop campus maps that crowdsource data on accessible routes and potential obstacles utilizing **MongoDB**, **Express**, **Angular**, **Node.js**, and **OpenStreetMap**

- Communicated with faculty, administrators, and students (10 active undergraduate members) across multiple departments for product development, design input and awareness, and development of a corresponding iOS client

Instructional Assistant, COMP 421 (Databases)

Jan 2024 - May 2024

- Developed assignments in conjunction with instructor; provided 1:1 support via video conference, email, and forums
- Provided instructional and emotional support to students during a multi-week mid-semester instructor transition

Augmentative and Alternative Communication, mentor: Dr. Gary Bishop

Aug 2022 - Dec 2022

- Aided in feature development, testing, and bug fixes for the Open-Source Design and Programmer Interface (OS-DPI), an application to allow non-programmers to develop new augmentative and alternative communication interfaces
- Created onboarding materials and developer's documentation for OS-DPI

Micro:bit Voice Classification, mentor: Dr. Samarjit Chakraborty

Jan 2022 - May 2022

- Collaborated with other undergraduate/graduate students to develop a voice-activated electrical plug with on-device natural language processing utilizing **micro:bit** hardware, **C++**, **Python**, and **TensorFlow Lite**

Teacher Report Automation, mentors: Dr. Gary Bishop & Dr. Karen Erickson

Mar 2021 - Jan 2022

- Prototyped an open-source Google Drive extension utilizing **JavaScript** and **Google Apps Script** for automatic generation of personalized class forms for the State of Iowa's K-6 Early Literacy Alternate Assessment system

Instructional Assistant, COMP 110 (Intro to Programming and Data Science)

Jan 2021 - May 2021

- Provided 1:1 support to 600 students of varying skill levels over video conference (4 hours/week) and email in collaboration with 50 other instructional assistants
- Tutored students on topics such as programming fundamentals, data analysis with **Jupyter** and **NumPy**, algorithm development, and **Python** syntax; debugged code; graded assignments and provided personalized feedback

SAS Institute (Education Division), Cary, North Carolina

Year-Round Technical Intern, EVAAS (Education Value-Added Assessment System)

May 2022 - Jan 2023

- Designed a system for language-agnostic code templating with **React**, **GraphQL**, **Spring Boot (REST)**, and **SQLite** to automate generation of custom client scripts
- Represented front-end web development team in cross-team discussions regarding client requirement management

Year-Round Technical Intern, GAP (Global Academic Programs)

May 2021 - May 2022

- Streamlined the exploration of over 500 datasets in SAS Viya for Learners by creating software with **Python Flask**, **SASPy**, and **SAS 9.4** to naïvely cluster unstructured text data and automate the generation of data analysis documents
- Managed content and supported design of the SAS Viya for Learners Data Repository, which surfaces over 100 data analysis documents and received 1.7K total views/month from 1.5 users in 64 countries within 4 months of creation
- Collaborated with SAS instructors to develop solutions for classroom activities on SAS Visual Analytics and **SAS 9.4**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Carnegie Mellon University

- Faculty meeting PhD representative/notetaker, Human-Computer Interaction Institute, *Oct 2025 - Present*
- Research committee member & accessibility advocate, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, *Oct 2024 - May 2025*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Executive Officer, Tar Heels at the Table

Oct 2021 - May 2024

- Advocated for accessibility to university administration by synthesizing personal experience with data from students, faculty/staff, and family to identify problems/solutions; advise university-wide efforts to survey students on disability
- Created and maintained meeting notes, publicity materials, organization website, and online resources on SharePoint

Ambassador, Computer Science Experience Lab

Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

- Welcomed, oriented, and answered infrastructure questions of students in the coworking space 2 to 4 hours a week
- Helped announce staffing changes, upcoming workshops, and club/department events to undergraduates in the major
- Provided feedback and suggestions to improve department infrastructure for undergraduates

Leader, Journey Christian Fellowship

Aug 2022 - Sept 2023

- Led weekly Bible studies, planned and coordinated fellowship events, and mentored 5-10 students in discipleship
- Managed finances, created publicity materials, and maintained organization documents.

Treasurer, Nutrition Coalition (Department of Nutrition)

Jul 2020 - Aug 2022

- Coordinated finances and communication for annual department-wide t-shirt fundraiser with 60 to 120 donors
- Helped start and managed inventory for CJ's pantry, a schoolwide food pantry servicing the community (US News)

- Led budget creation and automated financial data summarization and analysis using **Python**, **JavaScript**, and Excel
- Volunteer Teaching Intern, Carolina Hunger Initiative, *Dec 2020*

Volunteer Intern, Carolina Hunger Initiative

Dec 2020

- Lectured and facilitated class discussions with a team delivering free, online nutrition lessons to low-income caregivers.
- Worked to expand the program's audience from the Triangle into Charlotte by sharing program flyers with connections

Central Piedmont Community College

Co-Founder & President, Student Researchers in Science

Aug 2019 - Aug 2020

- Increased access to resources and mentoring for students to conduct research in STEM fields
- Collaborated with club officers to establish the club and write the constitution; developed the club's mission
- Promoted the club in cooperation with CPCC faculty, increasing club membership from 1 to over 40

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Pittsburghers for Public Transit (Research and Accessibility Committees), *2024, 2025*

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- Accessible Carolina, Equal Opportunity and Compliance, *2023, 2024*
- University Teaching Awards, *2023*

ACADEMIC HONORS

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Honors Carolina Laureate, *2024*
- Dean's List, *2020, 2021, 2022, 2023*
- Charles H. Dunham Scholarship (Department of Computer Science), *2022*
- Tapia Conference Scholarship (Department of Computer Science), *2022*
- Pulso Scholar (Carolina Latinx Center), *2021*
- Whitaker Carolina Scholarship, *2020*

Central Piedmont Community College

- President's List, *2018, 2019, 2020*

Myers Park High School (Charlotte, NC)

- Valedictorian, *2020*
- National Merit Finalist, *2020*
- Burger King Scholarship, *2020*