

Kinjal Pandey

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Master of Science in Computer Science | GPA: 4.0

Expected May 2027

Amherst, MA

Virginia Tech

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics | GPA: 3.6

Jul. 2022 – May 2025

Blacksburg, VA

Research Interests: Trustworthy and Responsible AI, AI Privacy and Security, Human-AI Interaction, Generative AI, and socially responsible computing.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Chain-of-Sanitized-Thoughts: Plugging PII Leakage in CoT of Large Reasoning Models

2026

- Investigated personally identifiable information leakage through chain-of-thought reasoning in large reasoning models and methods for reducing sensitive-information exposure while preserving model utility.
- Contributed to research on privacy-preserving and trustworthy AI through PII-CoT-Bench; work accepted to the ICML 2026 AIWILD Workshop.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

UMass Amherst Center for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

May 2026 – Aug. 2026

Data Scientist, Data Science for the Common Good

Amherst, MA

- Analyzed transportation, Census, and geospatial data across a Greater Boston road network of 96,000+ nodes to study bicycle accessibility and demographic equity for the Boston Cyclists Union.
- Built reproducible Python workflows for graph analysis, demographic regression, and sensitivity testing, translating results into visualizations and evidence for public-interest infrastructure decision-making.

Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences, UMass Amherst

Fall 2026

Course Grader, COMPSCI 684: Trustworthy & Responsible AI

Amherst, MA

- Supporting assessment for an advanced graduate course covering AI privacy and security, adversarial attacks, generative-model risks, responsible model development, and current research in trustworthy AI.

Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Southwest Virginia

Oct. 2023 – Jan. 2024

Coding & Cryptography Researcher

Blacksburg, VA

- Researched anomaly detection, cryptographic coding, and fault-tolerant data encoding for secure data and machine-learning workflows.
- Collaborated with faculty and student researchers to document findings and communicate technical results through research reports and presentations.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences, UMass Amherst

Jun. 2026 – Aug. 2026

Open-Source Apprentice

Amherst, MA

- Contributed to open-source transportation and data-analysis software through Census/ACS data integration, issue-based development, testing, documentation, pull requests, and collaborative code review.

Steve Fisher Consulting

May 2025 – Sept. 2025

Technology Consultant

San Diego, CA

- Designed a secure litigation-document system with structured storage, search, role-based access controls, and audit logging to modernize document-heavy legal workflows.

SkyIT Services | GBCS Group

Feb. 2024 – Dec. 2024

Backend Developer Intern

Remote

- Developed backend functionality using Python, Django REST Framework, Firebase, and JavaScript for fleet-management applications, translating requirements into reliable API and database functionality.

LEADERSHIP & TECHNICAL COMMUNITY

Microsoft Learn Student Ambassadors — Student Ambassador

Jan. 2024 – Dec. 2024

- Organized hands-on workshops on Azure, AI, and software development and created reusable technical learning resources for students.

Google Developer Student Club, Virginia Tech — Team Leader

Oct. 2023 – Jun. 2024

- Led hackathons, technical workshops, and student project mentorship across cloud computing, APIs, software development, and machine learning.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & HONORS

Technical: Python, SQL, JavaScript, Java, C/C++, Pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, Git/GitHub, Docker, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, Firebase

Honors: Dean's List with Distinction; Student Affairs Scholarship; Buzz's Bunch Scholarship; Undergraduate Research Excellence Program