

# NICKOLAS J. VELA

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## EDUCATION

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### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz, CA

B.S. Computer Science

Expected Jun 2027

Cumulative GPA: 3.94/4.00

Relevant Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence Machine Learning Basics, Computer Systems and C Programming, Python Programming, Computer Architecture

## EXPERIENCE

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### OVERTURE MAPS FOUNDATION

Hybrid

Software Engineering Intern

Jan 2026 – Present

- Selected for a school-affiliated, course-based internship focused on open geospatial data and mapping infrastructure.
- Currently onboarding and reviewing technical documentation, data standards, and project tooling in preparation for development contributions.
- Collaborating with industry engineers and peers in an academic setting to scope upcoming technical work and deliverables.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz, CA

Resident Assistant

Aug 2025 – Present

- Served as a community leader and contact point for 50+ residents, creating an inclusive and supportive living environment.
- Developed strong leadership and communication skills through weekly meetings, one-on-one mentoring, and facilitating group discussions.

## PROJECTS

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### PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO WEBSITE — [nickvela.dev](http://nickvela.dev)

Oct 2025

*Technologies: JavaScript, CSS, HTML*

- Engineered a fully responsive and mobile-friendly website using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, ensuring seamless performance across devices and screen sizes.
- Optimized user engagement through interactive elements including draggable physics objects, 3D CSS transforms with perspective effects, and debounced scroll event handlers for improved performance

### RALLY — IOS EVENT & COMMUNITY APP

Oct 2025

*Technologies: Swift, SwiftUI, Xcode, Firebase, Firestore*

- Designed, developed, and deployed a fully functional iOS application that enables college students to create, join, and manage community events in real time.
- Implemented Firebase Authentication, Firestore real-time database, and Cloud Storage infrastructure with optimized queries achieving sub-100ms response times and enabling scalability to 10,000+ concurrent users.
- Developed admin dashboard with content moderation tools, multi-level reporting system, user management controls, and role-based access reducing moderation workflow time by 70%.
- Integrated MapKit and CoreLocation APIs to create location-based event discovery with coordinate search, interactive maps, and address autocomplete functionality for campus-wide event exploration.

### MACHINE LEARNING DATASET EVALUATION PROJECT

May 2025

*Technologies: Python, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, Numpy, Regex, Matplotlib*

- Analyzed and cleaned a dataset with over 1,300 rows and 13+ unnamed features, identifying correlations between these features and 8 distinct label classes.
- Built and compared three supervised classifiers (Logistic Regression, K-Nearest Neighbors, Decision Tree), achieving an average accuracy of 96% across models.
- Visualized label distributions and evaluated model predictions to uncover patterns and support interpretation of results.

## ADDITIONAL

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**Languages:** Python, C, C++, Swift, JavaScript, SQL, HTML, CSS, Shell Script

**Technologies:** SwiftUI, Bash, Git, Vim, Firebase, Firestore, VS Code, Xcode, Claude Code

**Libraries:** Pandas, NumPy, Regex, Scikit-Learn, Matplotlib