

Christopher Mena

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Portfolio: (chrisai.dev) • LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/ChrisDevAI • GitHub: github.com/ChrisDevAI

Applied AI / ML Engineering Student

Builds production-minded AI systems that combine computer vision, NLP, and LLM workflows with deterministic pipelines—from data extraction and model inference to full web applications. Focused on accuracy, reliability, and clear user outcomes.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages: Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, SQL; C++ (prior experience), Java (prior experience)
- Backend: FastAPI, REST APIs, Uvicorn, environment-based configuration
- AI/LLM Systems: extensive workflow experience with OpenAI ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Anthropic Claude; prompt engineering, structured outputs, validation loops, information extraction, and evaluation-aware prompting
- ML/Data: PyTorch, TensorFlow, NumPy, pandas, scikit-learn, feature engineering, model training and evaluation, classification, dimensionality reduction, transformer fine-tuning
- Computer Vision: OpenCV, YOLO, Tesseract OCR, object detection, bounding boxes, image preprocessing
- Data Visualization: Matplotlib, Tableau
- Cloud: AWS/Azure fundamentals
- Frontend/Tools: React, Vite, Next.js, Tailwind CSS, responsive UI development, Git/GitHub

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Applied Artificial Intelligence — Miami Dade College
Expected: Spring 2027

Associate of Science (A.S.), Applied Artificial Intelligence — Miami Dade College
Completed: August 2025

Associate of Science (A.S.), Computer Programming and Analysis — Miami Dade College
Completed: April 2024

GPA: 3.84 (Cumulative)

Academic Distinction: 4.00 GPA across 10 consecutive terms, Spring 2023–Spring 2026

Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning Foundations, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, AI Applications, Computational Methods for AI I & II, Data Structures, Statistical Methods, Data Analytics

PUBLICATIONS

[*“A Command-Trigger System for Standardized LLM Workflows”*](#) — Medium, Mar 2026

Proposed a lightweight command-trigger framework for LLM workflows using standardized output contracts and persistent memory configuration to improve repeatability, reduce prompt re-explaining, and create cleaner cross-session handoffs.

Link: [Medium article](#)

PROJECTS

Chess AI Tutor (MVP)

Python • FastAPI • Stockfish • python-chess • React • Vite • Tailwind

GitHub: github.com/ChrisDevAI/chess-ai-tutor

Live Demo (frontend-only): chess-ai-tutor-react.web.app

- Built a hybrid chess analysis system combining deterministic Stockfish evaluation with LLM-generated coaching explanations through a modular FastAPI backend.
- Implemented snapshot-based position analysis using FEN-driven engine evaluation for fast, interactive position review.
- Designed a two-layer architecture separating engine computation from natural-language explanation to improve reliability and maintainability.
- Developed a React + Vite frontend with move history navigation and chat-style tutoring interaction.

Student Schedule Planner (MVP)

Python • FastAPI • Uvicorn • Tesseract OCR • React • Vite • Tailwind

GitHub: github.com/ChrisDevAI/student-schedule-planner

Live Demo (frontend-only): student-schedule-planner-75ce2.web.app

- Built an end-to-end scheduling system: course-list image upload → OCR extraction (Tesseract) → course code validation/normalization → section matching → conflict-free schedule output.
- Implemented a FastAPI backend with a modular OCR pipeline to convert noisy course-list images into structured text for downstream processing.
- Added a deterministic, constraint-based scheduler as the system-of-record for schedule generation (verifiable conflict-free outputs).
- Integrated an LLM assistant for validation, deduplication, and course-code normalization, while keeping scheduling decisions under deterministic control.
- Reduced schedule-building time from ~30–60 minutes to minutes.

EXPERIENCE

Career Transition & Full-Time Student | 2019–Present

- Returned to school full-time in 2022 through a programming-focused path, then officially transitioned into Applied Artificial Intelligence in 2024. Currently building toward AI/ML engineering through hands-on portfolio projects, strong academic performance, and continued technical skill development.

AV/IT Systems Integrator - Contractor | 2011–2019

- Completed full AV/IT integration projects, from structural installation and cable infrastructure through final system commissioning.
- Built and populated server racks, installed teleconferencing and display systems, and configured TX/RX signal routing across multiple commercial installations.
- Developed hands-on discipline working under real client deadlines in complex physical environments.