

Eric Nguyen

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EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine

B.S. Computer Engineering (transferring Fall 2027)

Irvine, CA

Expected June 2029

- Orange Coast College, A.S. Computer Science | GPA: 3.72
- Joseph R. Kroll Award, Garrison Fellow, Student Leader of the Year (2025)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Product & Solutions Engineer

Plethora.so — Software Development Start-up

Midway City, CA

April 2024 – Aug 2026

- A meal-prep client hand-built menus, labels, and cut sheets every two weeks; shipped Chef Nourish (Next.js, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Vercel) on a 3-engineer team, cutting the work from **5 hours to 30 minutes (90%)**.
- Tasked with keeping allergens out of the wrong meals, designed a **7-category, 349-tag** allergen/diet system backed by **9,581 ingredient rules**, with **0 allergen leaks across 1,526 stress-tested dishes**.
- To guide the packing line, catalogued **22 unique packaging containers** and built a kitchen terminal showing how to arrange and pack every meal, **3 times a week**.
- Owned the client from requirements to handoff: scoped import flows and wrote **17 handoff docs**.

Operations Assistant & Automation Developer

Garrison Honors Center, Orange Coast College

Costa Mesa, CA

Jan 2024 – Present

- Staff spent 30–45 minutes hand-checking each of 300+ honor-society applications per semester; shipped an offline desktop app (Python, PySide6, Pydantic, pyodbc/MS Access), **cutting each check to seconds**.
- Parsed HTML transcripts (Beautiful Soup) and recomputed GPA/units to check **148 requirements across 17 societies**.
- Wrote results to the registrar's 20-year-old Access database, previewing each update; **0 records overwritten**.

PROJECTS

SLAP! — Live-Caption Classroom Device, Hardware & Software

Orange Coast College

TypeScript, Node (Hono, WebSockets), React Router, Postgres, Deepgram, ESP32-S3

Oct 2026

- Built an ESP32-S3 device streaming lecture audio into **live captions in ~120 ms** in 2 languages, shareable via link.
- Turned each transcript into notes, spaced-repetition flashcards, and a per-student study plan with OpenAI's GPT-Luna.
- Benchmarked 3 translation backends and picked one with a 167 ms median for both languages.
- **Won 2nd place in the Education track** at OCC Hacks 2026.

OCC Hacks 2026 — Hackathon Website

Orange Coast College

Next.js, React, TypeScript, Tailwind, Supabase (Postgres, Auth, RLS), Resend, PostHog

May 2026 – Oct 2026

- Solo-built the sign-up and organizer platform: **1,400+ unique visitors**, 12,000+ page views, 160+ applications in 7 weeks.
- Kept 93% of applicants who cleared the first form step through to submission; sessions averaged 12 minutes.

LLM Math Reasoning — Fine-Tuning Research

Giles T. Brown Research Symposium

AI Research Fellow | LoRA fine-tuning, 4-bit quantization, dataset curation

Jan 2025 – April 2025

- To test whether condensed reasoning helps small models at hard math, LoRA fine-tuned DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B on one RTX 4060 Ti with 137 GSM8K/AIME/Putnam solutions condensed by Qwen2.5-32B.
- **Surpassed the base model on every exam tested:** on unseen AIME 2024, **53.3% vs 46.7% at pass@1 (+14%)** and **66.6% vs 56.6% at pass@3 (+18%)**; AMATYC Student Math League **+15.8%**.

LEADERSHIP

Founder & President

Iota Xi, Orange Coast College

Costa Mesa, CA

Feb 2024 – May 2026

- Founded Iota Xi, OCC's first computer science honor society; partnered with Amazon, Sony, Kickstarter, and NASA.
- Grew to **100+ new members** in its inaugural semester.
- Ran hands-on workshops on Git, Python, C++, and UI/UX design.

Lead Organizer

OCC Hacks 2026, Spookathon 2025, HackCC 2024

Costa Mesa, CA

Feb 2024 – Oct 2026

- Directed a 6-department team across multiple colleges to run three hackathons for 100+ attendees each.
- **Raised \$31,000+** in sponsorship; secured venue, catering, mentors, and overnight stays; won OCC's Event of the Year.

SKILLS

Languages: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, C++, SQL, HTML/CSS

Frontend: React, Next.js, React Router, Tailwind CSS, shadcn/ui

Backend & Data: Node.js, Next.js, Hono, WebSockets, PostgreSQL, Supabase, Neon

Hardware & Tools: ESP32-S3, Arduino, Git, Docker, Vercel, PostHog