

VIKRANT HAJARNAVIS

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EDUCATION

Rice University, Houston, TX

Expected May 2028

Major: B.A. Cognitive Science with Specialization in Psychology; Minor: Engineering Design

GPA: 3.86/4.00

Relevant Coursework:

Responsible Use of AI, Human Computer Interaction, Needs ID & Design Implement, Data Visualization

WORK EXPERIENCE

Microsoft

Product Design Extern

Jan 2026

- Selected into Rice University's Winter 2026 externship program at Microsoft
- Shadowed a Product Designer II on the CoPilot Team to get a hands-on overview into UX; Interviewed other team members to gain insights into practical applications of the iterative design process
- Presented past design projects for review & feedback from CoPilot UX team members

Rice Design

Design Analyst

Jan 2026 – May 2026

- Redesigned the "Research" page for the Texas Heart Institute's Electrophysiology Clinical Research & Innovations Department website to act as a central hub that provides easy connections for publications, fund raising, collaborator interaction, & to showcase team profiles
- Led case discussions & conducted surveys to synthesize vague objectives into actionable solutions

Rice Undergraduate Marketing Association Consultant

Business Analyst

Sep 2025 – May 2026

- Built a new branding portfolio for a local non-profit aligned with their business goals & values while leveraging their current social media & in-person branding style
- Led stake-holder interviews to assess client's needs; Conducted market research & literature reviews

Vieu AI - AI-Powered B2B Sales Platform for Enterprise Sales, founded by ex-Microsoft senior engineer

Usability & Design Summer Intern

June 2025 – July 2025

- Applied psychological biases to analyze functional & aesthetic elements of product interface through client sessions, via client-employee video recordings & personal experience with product; presented analysis to Head of Design
- Implemented the Design Thinking Process to understand user pain points & presented findings to Head of Design
- Analyzed clients' activities & constructed user insights by leveraging AI tools implementing mouse tracking; Compiled insights regarding user motivation to increase client engagement with the "track introductions" page; Developed a client survey to better understand user motivation & behavior to improve product capability
- Utilized the Octalysis Framework to increase client engagement through its "track introductions" page

PROJECTS

Safe Dining App Development

Independent App Developer

July 2025 – present

- Creating mobile app that prioritizes student dietary preferences while consolidating all menu items in one convenient location
- Defined core safety requirements, product trust rules, & phased build plan in PRD to prevent AI-generated content from being mistaken for Rice's official allergen data
- Translated user journey map into structured prompts to direct Cursor's build of onboarding, filtration, & core app pages;
- Directing Cursor to build app's front & back-end, cross-validating technical decisions with Claude, ChatGPT, & Gemini through refined prompting
- Architecting phased backend plan with database schema, API strategy, confidence-scoring system by directing AI within defined goals and constraints while refining with software engineer feedback

Electronic Fetoscope Monitoring System, Rice University iSEED Program (Nairobi, Kenya)

Product Manager

May 2025 – present

- Developed a probe attachment for Pinard fetoscopes to help midwives monitor fetal heart rate in low-resource settings
- Conducted site interviews at Level 3 & Level 5 hospitals
- Redirected 2 electrical engineering teammates unfamiliar with Engineering Design Process from solution-first thinking toward design criteria grounded in user needs
- Facilitated objective evaluation of competing prototype concepts via Pugh-matrix screen & scoring against team-established design criteria to converge on final design direction

SKILLS

- AI Prompting, Python, CursorAI, Autodesk Fusion, Figma