

Anika Jain

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Mixed-methods UX Researcher focused on accessibility who blends deep research skills (user interviews, contextual inquiries, surveys, usability testing) with a software engineering background, bringing strengths in cross-functional collaboration, rapid prototyping, and systems thinking. Achievements include two published ACM CHI papers on generative AI usage, an AI buying agent for Consumer Reports, an ML-driven image analysis project at AWS, and an Android app for color-blind users with 10K+ downloads.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)

Pittsburgh, PA | Aug 2024 - Aug 2025

Master of Human-Computer Interaction (GPA: 3.83/4.00)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Urbana, IL | Aug 2021 - May 2024

Bachelor of Science with Honors in Computer Science + Astronomy (Dean's List x3, GPA: 3.80/4.00)

SKILLS

Research: User Interviews, Contextual Inquiries, Surveys, Usability Testing, A/B Testing, Wizard-Of-Oz Testing, Interaction Design

Tools: Figma, Dovetail, UserTesting, Dscout, Qualtrics, Miro, Notion, Jira, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite

Technical: Applied Machine Learning, AWS, Android, Database Design, Distributed Systems, Object-Oriented Analysis

Programming Languages: Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL, C++

EXPERIENCE

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) | Research Assistant

Pittsburgh, PA | May 2025 - Present

- Building *EstiMate*, a React web tool enabling *Product Management Essentials* students to explore tradeoffs of product features
- Transforming static workflow, with goal of reducing assignment time by 25% and enabling use beyond class for quick estimates
- Defining the information architecture and learning objectives via collaboration with class professor and VP of Engineering
- Interviewed students, yielding insights on critical transparency gaps that led to significant restructuring of the course curriculum

Consumer Reports (CR) - Capstone | Lead Researcher, Designer, Developer

Pittsburgh, PA | Jan 2025 - Jul 2025

- Led mixed-methods research to redesign 'Best Time to Buy' (a key benefit for CR's 6M+ users) as an AI-powered buying agent
- Orchestrated interviews, usability tests, and surveys with 172 participants, informing core principles for user trust in AI agents
- Synthesized findings into product recommendations and future-state timeline projected to generate \$2M+ in revenue growth
- Secured stakeholder support by leading 2 co-design workshops as well as developing 10+ journey maps and process models

ImaginAltion (Graduate Research at CMU) | Lead Researcher, Designer

Pittsburgh, PA | Aug 2024 - Feb 2025

- Published novel research at ACM CHI 2025 on game-based learning to improve young adults' GenAI literacy skills
- Conducted 12 contextual interviews to understand users' mental models of GenAI, translating insights into 4 core game stages
- Applied persuasive design principles in game, boosting player confidence in AI bias identification by 30% during initial tests

UIUC Social Spaces Lab | Researcher

Urbana, IL | Feb 2024 - Oct 2024

- Published one of the first studies on GenAI adoption among college students with disabilities at ACM CHI 2025
- Surveyed 62 participants, revealing that 40% of folks use GenAI to fill critical gaps in accessibility support from universities
- Analyzed 21 interviews via thematic coding, uncovering GenAI's role in boosting self-advocacy and providing informal support

Amazon Web Services (AWS) - IoT FleetWise | Software Development Intern

Sunnyvale, CA | May 2023 - Aug 2023

- Built an ML-powered service to classify and blur items in cloud-based dashcam streams containing TBs of image data
- Developed configurable user controls for identifying and blurring objects, ensuring privacy-preserving data access
- Enabled integration and testing of customer ML models, aiding customers in analysis of performance and utility tradeoffs

UIUC Housing | Resident Advisor

Urbana, IL | Aug 2022 - May 2023

- Fostered community among 50+ students through mentorship, 1:1s, and monthly hall programs on personal values
- Advised first-year students on academic and personal concerns while handling administrative duties such as incident reports

Spectra: Color-Blind Assistant | Sole Developer, Designer, Researcher

Cupertino, CA | Jul 2019 - Sep 2021

- Created and published the Android app *Spectra: Color-Blind Assistant*, which has over 10,000 downloads
- Conducted optometrist interviews and 10+ user tests to refine algorithm functionality and improve overall app experience
- Developed novel algorithms for personalized real-time color enhancements and calibration of color blindness severities