

# Elijah Gaytan

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## EDUCATION

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**Texas State University**, San Marcos, TX

July 2020

*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science*

**University of Texas**, Austin, TX

December 2017

*Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy*

## EXPERIENCE

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**Lococoder Labs**

May 2024 - Present

*Freelance Software Engineer*

- Top Rated Plus & Expert Vetted – Upwork (Top 1% of freelancers globally)
- Developed 10+ custom web applications for startups and SMBs in fintech and education
- Built an internal AI chat platform for McCormick & Company leveraging React, Langchain, FastAPI, and Cosmos DB
- Led technical discovery and scoped requirements for MVPs with budgets from \$5k to \$50k
- Independently own the entire software development lifecycle—from discovery and system design to implementation, deployment, and client training

**Colorfull** - *Early-stage B2C catering startup based in Austin, TX*

Software Engineer (Contract)

October 2024- May 2025

- Collaborated directly with the CEO and CTO to spearhead end-to-end feature development in a fast-paced startup environment
- Built scalable features using a modern stack: Cursor, Next.js, TypeScript, FastAPI, Firebase, Google Cloud Run and Vercel; integrated with third-party platforms including Stripe and Otter
- Developed a vector search engine using Pinecone to enable semantic and keyword-based food item search, improving user discovery experience
- Introduced Redis-based caching to reduce API response times and enhance system performance
- Designed and implemented a customer feedback system with weekly digest emails to restaurants, closing the loop between user experience and vendor improvement
- Redesigned frontend components to better follow UI/UX design principles and be mobile responsive
- Overhauled UI components for mobile responsiveness and adherence to modern UX best practices using Tailwind, ShadCN, Aceternity and Framer Motion
- Led security efforts by implementing RBAC authentication middleware using Clerk and JWTs, strengthening platform access control

**PNC**

November 2020 - May 2024

*Software Engineer*

- Collaborated with PNC's SRE team to design and build internal tooling that automated and accelerated key infrastructure workflows, reducing manual intervention
- Designed and deployed a backend system using FastAPI, MySQL, and Jinja to automate ServiceNow Change Requests, reducing manual work for 30+ developers across the org
- Built the backend for a centralized log query platform using Express.js, MongoDB, and the Humio API, enabling engineers to search logs without vendor-specific syntax—cutting onboarding time by dozens of hours
- Maintained and led backend development for a FastAPI/MySQL application with hundreds of daily users to automate synthetic monitoring in Dynatrace, dramatically simplifying infra observability setup

- Engineered internal tooling for WebSphere/Apache node management using Vue.js (Quasar) and FastAPI; introduced Kafka and Celery-based event-driven architecture for scalable background processing

**Texas State VR Lab**, San Marcos, TX

October 2018 - March 2019

*Software Engineer - Intern*

- Designed and implemented a virtual reality training simulation in Unity3D/C# to help train new EMS recruits in Austin, leading to a faster comprehension rate of 47% compared to the non-VR group
- Developed an extensive gesture recognition framework for the Oculus Rift SDK that tracks player hand movement