

Steven Ngo

Software Engineering Ph.D. Student /
Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition '25 National Champion

Email: skngo1@uci.edu | **Website:** stengos.github.io

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/steven-ngo-291a31167/

Github: github.com/StengoS

Research Interests

Software Security, Developer-Centered Security, Software Engineering & Security Education

Education

Ph.D. in Software Engineering

Sep. 2023 - Present

University of California, Irvine, Informatics Department

Advisor: Dr. Joshua Garcia

Overall GPA: 4.0

B.S. in Software Engineering, Minor in Psychology

Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2023

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Overall GPA: 3.9 (Summa Cum Laude)

Work Experiences

Turing

Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025

Data Analyst (CS SME; Contractor)

Samsung Research America

Jun. 2024 - Sep. 2024

Security Research Engineer Intern (Knox Security, MPS B2B)

Cal Poly Software Engineering Capstone

Sep. 2021 - Jun. 2022

Team Manager (Clients: Team fEMR)

GoDaddy

Jun. 2021 - Sep. 2021

Product Security Intern - Software Development

County of San Luis Obispo

Oct. 2019 - Jun. 2021

HR Technology Student Intern

Papers

[P1] A Deep Dive Into How Open-Source Project Maintainers Perceive, Review, and Resolve Bug Bounty Reports

J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia

IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2025 (~14.3% acceptance rate)

Preprints

[A1] ASCENT: Analysis-Specific Call Graphs for Scalable and Precise Android Intent Analysis

Y. Tung, H. Chen, Y. He, J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, H. Mo, J. Garcia
Under Review, 2025

Posters & Workshop Papers

[W4] Upcycling Computing Hardware Equipment for Security Education

S. Ngo, J. Garcia
IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P), 2025

[W3] Towards Understanding the Underuse of Security Features in Open-source Repositories

J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia
USENIX Security Symposium, 2024

[W2] Modeling Human-Cyber Interactions in Safety-Critical Cyber-Physical/Industrial Control Systems

S. Ngo, D. DeAngelis, L. Garcia
National Workshop for REU Research in Networking and Systems (REUNS), 2022

[W1] Software Security Analysis on Internet-of-Things Application

S. Ngo, P. Fang
Cal Poly College of Engineering Undergrad Research Virtual Symposium (CENG SURP), 2020

Teaching Experiences

UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Mar. 2024

Course Design Essentials Program - Certificate in Course Design

UC Irvine Informatics Dept

Sep. 2023 - Dec. 2023

Teaching Assistant

- INF43, Intro to Software Engineering

Cal Poly Comp Sci and Software Eng Dept

Jan. 2021 - Jun. 2023

Undergrad Teaching Assistant

- CPE321, Intro to Computer Security
 - CSC421, Binary Exploitation
 - CSC305, Individual Software Design & Development
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Service & Professional Activities

National Upcycled Computing Collective

Aug. 2025 - Present

Director of Academic Outreach

Cyber@UCI

Jan. 2024 - Present

President, Vice President

Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS) Symposium '26 <i>Artifact Evaluation Committee Member - Summer Cycle</i>	Jul. 2025 - Sep. 2025
Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing <i>Reviewer</i>	Apr. 2025 - Jun. 2025
UCI Informatics Graduate Student Association <i>Treasurer</i>	Jun. 2024 - Jun. 2025
Cyber@UCI Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) Team <i>Coach, Team Lead, Team Member</i>	Sep. 2023 - Apr. 2025
Cyber@UCI Collaboration with UCI Office of Information Technology for AI Red Teaming <i>Project Facilitator, Contributor</i>	Dec. 2024 - Apr. 2025
Cal-Bridge Peer Mentorship Committee <i>Committee Member, Peer Mentor</i>	May 2024 - May 2025
Crack the Code Hackathon '25 <i>Hackathon Judge</i>	Mar. 2025
Transactions on Software Engineering <i>Reviewer</i>	Jan. 2025 - Feb. 2025
Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS) Symposium '25 <i>Artifact Evaluation Committee Member - Summer and Fall Cycles</i>	Jul. 2024 - Dec. 2024
Cal-Bridge Research Symposium '24 <i>Session Chair</i>	Sep. 2024
International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA) '24 <i>Artifact Evaluation Committee Member</i>	Mar. 2024
Cal Poly Noyce School of Applied Computing New Director Search <i>Computing Student Representative</i>	Oct. 2022 - Jun. 2023
Cal Poly Security Education Club <i>President, Corporate Officer, Malware Tech. Team Member</i>	Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2023
Cal Poly CSSE Dept Winter 2022 New Faculty Search <i>Student Feedback Group Member</i>	Feb. 2022 - Mar. 2022

Selected Talks

Students as Cyber Guardians: Pioneering AI Security in Higher Education <i>UC Tech '25, In Collaboration with UCI Office of Information Technology</i>	Jun. 26, 2025
UCI OIT x Cyber@UCI: Phishing Demo <i>In Collaboration with UCI Office of Information Technology</i>	Oct. 30, 2024
School of Hard Hacks: Experiences and Insights on College-Level Cybersecurity Education <i>Irvine Underground, February 2024 Meetup</i>	Feb. 9, 2024

Honors, Awards, & Prizes

Black Hat USA 2025 Student Scholarship	Aug. 2025
Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship in Cybersecurity	Sep. 2024 - Jun. 2025
Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) <i>National CCDC Nationals '25 - <u>1st place</u></i> <i>Western Regional CCDC Regionals '25 - <u>1st place</u></i> <i>Western Regional CCDC Qualifiers '25 - <u>1st place</u></i> <i>National CCDC Nationals '24 - 4th place</i> <i>National CCDC Wildcards '24 - <u>1st place</u></i> <i>Western Regional CCDC Regionals '24 - 2nd place</i>	Feb. 2024 - Apr. 2025
Cal-Bridge University of California Doctoral Fellowship	Sep. 2023 - Sep. 2024
DARPA + Tools Competition's Building an Adaptive and Competitive	Jul. 2024
Workforce - Catalyst Award <i>Proposal: Codesafe - \$50,000</i>	
UC Irvine Informatics Department Chair's Award	Sep. 2023
Cal-Bridge Computer Science and Engineering Scholarship	Jun. 2021 - Jun. 2023
Northrop Grumman Foundation Scholarship Endowment	May 2022
California Assembly Award of Recognition <i>Awarded by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, CA 44th District</i>	Jul. 2019
Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Rank	Aug. 2018
