

Steven Ngo

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING PH.D. STUDENT · COLLEGIATE CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION '25 NATIONAL CHAMPION

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Education

University of California, Irvine

PH.D. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

- Advisor: Dr. Joshua Garcia

Irvine, California

Sep. 2023 - present

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

B.S. SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

- Minor in Psychology
- GPA: 3.9 (Summa Cum Laude)
- Research Mentors: Ayaan Kazerouni, Dongfeng Fang, Zachary Peterson

San Luis Obispo, California

Sep. 2019 - Jun. 2023

Professional Experience

INDUSTRY

2026 **Technical Product Manager Intern**, Animal Outpatient Specialty Network

2025 **Data Analyst (Contractor)**, Turing

2024 **Security Research Engineer Intern**, Samsung Research America

2021 **Product Security Intern**, GoDaddy

2019 - 2021 **HR Technology Student Intern**, County of San Luis Obispo

ACADEMIA

2023, 2025 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Dept. of Informatics, University of California, Irvine

2021 - 2023 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, Dept. of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Cal Poly SLO

2022 **Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Info. Sciences Institute, University of Southern California

Publications

PUBLISHED

J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia. 2026. *Between Risk, Recognition, and Necessity: How Open-Source Project Maintainers Perceive and Navigate CVEs Through Reporting and Resolving Vulnerabilities*. To Appear at ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS) 2026.

J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, J. Garcia. 2025. *A Deep Dive Into How Open-Source Project Maintainers Perceive, Review, and Resolve Bug Bounty Reports*. IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P) 2025. (~14.3% acceptance rate)

IN REVIEW

S. Ngo, J. Ayala, J. Garcia. 2026. *Investigating Educational Collaborations with Upcycled Computing Equipment on Student-Run Cybersecurity Clubs*.

Y. Tung, H. Chen, Y. He, J. Ayala, **S. Ngo**, H. Mo, J. Garcia. 2025. *ASCENT: Analysis-Specific Call Graphs for Scalable and Precise Android Intent Analysis*.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2025	Black Hat USA 2025 Student Scholarship , Black Hat USA, Zoox	
	Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship in Cybersecurity , US Department of Education	
	Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition National Champion , Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security	
2024	Cal-Bridge University of California Doctoral Fellowship , Cal-Bridge	
	Catalyst Award , DARPA & Tools Competition, Building an Adaptive and Competitive Workforce	\$ 50,000
	Certificate in Course Design , UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Course Design Essentials Program	
2023	Informatics Department Chair's Award , UC Irvine, Dept. of Informatics	
	Cal-Bridge Computer Science and Engineering Scholarship , Cal-Bridge	
2022	Northrop Grumman Foundation Scholarship Endowment , Cal Poly SLO, Dept. of CSSE	

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

- Aug. 2026. *Student-Run Cybersecurity Clubs: Why They Matter & Digital Playgrounds*. DEFCON 34, Las Vegas, NV.
- Oct. 2025. *The Untapped Pipeline of the Cybersecurity Industry: Reflections on Cyber Clubs*. OSSCON '25, Fullerton, CA.
- Jun. 2025. *Students as Cyber Guardians: Pioneering AI Security in Higher Education*. UC Tech '25, Riverside, CA.
- Feb. 2024. *School of Hard Hacks: Experiences and Insights on College-Level Cybersecurity Education*. Irvine Underground Feb. '24, Irvine, CA.

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025	Requirement Analysis & Engineering , Graduate Teaching Assistant
Fall 2023	Intro. to Software Engineering , Graduate Teaching Assistant
Spring 2023	Intro. to Computer Security , Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
Winter 2023	Binary Exploitation: Tools and Techniques , Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
Fall 2022	Intro to Computer Security , Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
Fall 2021	Individual Software Design and Development , Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
Winter 2021	Intro to Computer Security , Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Mentoring

2025 - 2026 **Akshay Rohatgi**, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of California, Irvine

Outreach & Professional Development

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2026 **Business Battlefield '26**, Competition Judge

2025 - 2026 **National Upcycled Computing Collective**, Director of Academic Outreach

2024 - 2026 **Cyber@UCI**, President

2025 **Crack the Code Hackathon '25**, Hackathon Judge

2024 - 2025 **Informatics Graduate Student Association**, Treasurer

2024 - 2025 **Cal-Bridge Peer Mentorship Committee**, Committee Member

2024 **Cal-Bridge Research Symposium '24**, Session Chair

2022 - 2023 **Cal Poly Noyce School of Applied Computing New Director Search**, Student Representative

2022 - 2023 **Cal Poly Security Education Club**, President

2022 **Cal Poly CSSE Dept New Faculty Search**, Student Representative

PEER REVIEW

2026 **Network & Distributed Systems Security '27**, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

Intl. Conference on Software Engineering '27, Shadow PC Member

Intl. Conference on Automated Software Engineering '26, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

Intl. Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis '26, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

2025 **Network & Distributed Systems Security '26**, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

IEEE Security & Privacy '26, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing, Reviewer

Transactions on Software Engineering, Reviewer

2024 **Network & Distributed Systems Security '25**, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member

Intl. Conference on Software Architecture '24, Artifact Evaluation Committee Member