

STEPHEN CHIEN

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, College of Engineering

Master of Engineering in Computer Science

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Ithaca, NY

Expected May 2026

August 2022 – Dec 2025

- **Relevant Coursework:** Machine Learning, AI Reasoning & Decision-Making, Software Engineering in ML, Algorithms

EXPERIENCE

[Cajal Health](#) — Co-Founder

New York, NY

Oct 2022 – Present

- Accepted to **Y Combinator (W26 batch)**, top **1.5% of 30,000** startup applicants
- Built AI-powered insurance appeals platform using **Typescript** and **React**; piloting with **7** clinics across greater NYC area
- Created end-to-end ML pipeline for claims analysis with OpenAI API to reduce appeal time from hours to under **3 minutes**

Cornell Experience and Cognition Lab — Research Assistant

Ithaca, NY

May 2023 – Present

- Analyzed hemispheric asymmetry using **1TB+ of egocentric eye-tracking and fMRI data**, leveraging Python, R, and Stata for large-scale temporal signal processing and statistical analysis using linear regressions and bivariate analysis
- Led development of automated data pipelines for defacing fMRI participants, **reducing preprocessing time by 30%**

Purdue University NSF Lab – Research Assistant

West Lafayette, IN

May 2025 – Aug 2025

- Developed a novel **machine learning-based** privacy attack target mmWave radar sensing systems using PyTorch, enabling identification of individuals from anonymized signal data, achieved a **92%** classification accuracy across **500+** subjects
- Implemented and evaluated the strength of membership inference attacks against federated learning models, designing robust attack pipelines, achieved **87%** precision, sponsored by the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** with a grant

Mars-Wrigley — Software Engineer Intern

Newark, NJ

May 2024 – Aug 2024

- Built intelligent search algorithm with typo tolerance for M&M's e-commerce platform, reducing search time by **25%** and increasing conversion by **15%**, allowing products to be ranked and shown to the user in a seamless, efficient method
- Developed automated ad management system integrating Google Ads, Meta, and TikTok APIs; reduced manual overhead by **85%** across 50+ campaigns, leading marketing teams to streamline seasonal product management in a concise manner

CodeDay Labs — Software Engineer Intern

New York, NY

May 2023 – Aug 2023

- Led WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility overhaul, identifying and resolving **200+ violations** using Axe DevTools and WAVE
- Integrated axe-core accessibility testing into CI/CD pipeline, preventing regressions and establishing compliance gates

PUBLICATIONS

- **Chien, S.**, Rayl, H., Lippeatt, L., Singha, A., Li, T., & Li, F. (August 2025). Exposing privacy vulnerabilities in mmWave sensing via membership inference attacks. *IEEE MASS 2025* [\[Link\]](#)
- Morgan, O., **Chien, S.**, Casasanto, D. (Expected Aug. 2026). Hemispheric asymmetries in hand-eye coordination using egocentric gaze data. *Journal of Exp. Psychology*.

PROJECTS

- [Assesskit.com](https://assesskit.com) – Psychology Experiment creator built with React / NextJS, used in **5+** Cornell University Psychology Labs
- [Gautama](#) — Buddhist meditation app (Swift, Supabase) with **5,000+** users with videos on mood, sleep, and well-being
- [InnerVoice](#) – Built a cognitive-based mood journal app using OpenAI API and Meta TTS to process **700+** daily user entries

SKI LLS

Languages + Tools: Python, Java, C#, C, JavaScript/TypeScript, Swift, SQL, Git, CI/CD, UNIX, TCP/IP, REST APIs

Frameworks: React, Node.js, PyTorch, Express.js, Kubernetes, Redis, Supabase, Apache Spark, Web3, Tensorflow

Cloud/DevOps: AWS, Docker, CI/CD, Postgres, GraphQL, Snowflake, Fargate, Iceberg, AppSync