

Michael Zhang

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Educations and Qualifications:

August 2021 - Present

University of Texas at Austin (Class of 2025)

Major: Sociology
Minor: Journalism, Computer Science
GPA: 4.00

Skills

Python, R, Excel, ChatGPT APIs, Pandas

Languages:

Fluent in Chinese and English

Professional Memberships:

AAJA, IRE

Internship Opportunities and Work Experience:

June 2024 - Present

Houston Landing - Dow Jones News Fund Data Fellow

Houston, TX

Dow Jones News Fund Data Journalism Intern

- Utilized programming languages like R and Python for advanced document scraping and data analysis of public databases, focusing on areas such as Texas campaign finances, traffic accident data, and Houston policing data.
- Pitched data driven stories focused on public accountability, covering various government agencies such as 3-1-1 call centers, weather services, and local public school systems.
- Designed and programmed data visuals such as maps and graphs to simplify complex statistics for general news stories, improving reader engagement.

June 2023 - May 2024

KPRC-TV

Houston, TX

Contract Digital Data Producer

- Conducted live television interviews and corresponded on breaking news, provided real-time coverage and analysis.
- Assisted in in-depth research, fact-checking, and filing FOIA requests that resulted in comprehensive investigative reports on local law enforcement issues.

January 2023 - June 2023

The Daily Dot

Austin, TX

FOIA Intern

- Filed FOIA requests with government agencies to obtain public records, which were used to develop investigative news articles for The Daily Dot, a publication specializing in internet culture.
- Gained experience in SEO analytics, sourcing, and conducting interviews, enhancing the quality and reach of published content.

Activities and Volunteering:

August 2022 - December 2022

The Daily Texan

Austin, TX

Associate opinion editor

- Managed, edited and produced columnist content on a daily basis, as well as completed original content such as editorial board stories.

LEADERSHIP:

August 2021 - Present

Asian American Journalists Association:

Vice President

- Current officer of UT's Asian American Journalists Association, an organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of AAPJs in the newsroom for stronger representation and more inclusion.

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