

Sam Gowel

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EDUCATION

Virginia Tech - Blacksburg, Virginia

Fall 2025 - Present

Aerospace Engineering | GPA: 3.68 | Anticipated Graduation: Spring '29

Dean's List: Fall 2025, Spring 2026

EXPERIENCE

Customer Associate, Commissary

May 2026 - Present

- Assisted up to 50 customers an hour through check out by efficiently working with my team to bag customers' groceries and load their cars to achieve 100% customer satisfaction
- Responsible for the organization, cleanliness, and safety of the checkout area by returning carts, sweeping and disinfecting, and returning unwanted items to their appropriate location

Undergraduate Research, VT E2E — E2E Sustainable Aviation Fuel

October 2025 - Present

- Helped develop a new research topic for my team involving sustainable aviation fuel by conducting literature review and designing trials and test rigs to validate our design to win our organizations award of most progress out of 5 other research groups
- Presented our work at numerous conferences as well as technical reports to 40+ peers and professional mentors weekly

SolarCar at VT — Aerodynamic Sub Team Member

February 2026 - Present

- Assisted in designing and validating the aeroshell of our next gen solar car by redesigning the internal rib structure and top shell hinging mechanism to reduce the overall weight and improve internal access time
- Validated custom designs for the hinging mechanism through SolidWorks CAD, Finite Element Analysis, as well as MatLab simulations to prove their feasibility and ensure manufacturability

Research Assistant, Virginia Tech College of Business

March 2026 - May 2026

- Worked as a confederate to collect data from dozens of groups to include 40+ research participants by interacting with the subjects and scientifically instilling specific view points and measuring each group's reaction
 - Guided trials and helped plan future work by collaborating with research directors during debriefing meetings
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PROJECTS

1st place, Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association

Skills USA Engineering Competition

Summer 2025

- Designed search and rescue drone in Fusion 360 to win overall out of 9 competing schools

Inverted Pendulum, Mechanical Dog, and Other Personal Projects - Visit my portfolio: samgowel.com

SKILLS - Python, Java, MatLab, Microsoft Office Suite, SolidWorks, Manufacturing, LaTeX