

David Litman

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Education

UC Santa Barbara / B.S. in Mathematics

University of Chicago / Coursework in Mathematics and Philosophy,
2022–2023

Coursework: Topology, Real & Complex Analysis, Abstract Algebra, Galois Theory, Cryptography, Graduate Cognitive Science, Graduate Machine Learning, Neurobiology, Philosophy of Mind, Mechanics, Linear Algebra, Descriptive & Inferential Statistics

Self-directed study: *DeepLearning.ai* specialization, Behavioral Neuroscience (audited), independent study of *Theoretical Neuroscience* (Dayan & Abbott), *Cognitive Neuroscience* (Gazzaniga), and *Computational Psychiatry* (Redish & Gordon)

Experience

Salk Institute / Research Assistant under Professor Terry Sejnowski

June 2025 - Present

Working in Professor Sejnowski's lab on computational models of brain function. Researching the relationship between creativity/creative output and mood disorder by utilizing the massive ABCD dataset. Reading relevant literature, programming codebase, and writing research paper with Professor Sejnowski.

UC Santa Barbara / LEAP Lab Research Assistant under Professor Lapate

January 2025 - June 2025

Conduct multivariate fMRI analyses (MVPA, RSA) supporting affective neuroscience research. Built end-to-end preprocessing pipelines in Python; orchestrated batch data submissions using SLURM. Collaborating on graduate dissertation project (Mengsi Li).

Princeton University / Research Intern, Department of MAE

June 2022 - June 2024

Conducted research on radiative decay branching ratios and the Stark Effect quantum phenomena with Professor Michael Littman (no relation). Manuscript in progress for eventual submission to American Journal of physics to follow on to princeton.edu/~mlittman/AJP_published.pdf.

New York Times, WSJ, Boston Globe, and others / Crossword Creator

September 2019 - Present, San Diego

Published in national outlets including New York Times. Construct themed and themeless crossword puzzles for major publications.

UC Santa Barbara / Research Assistant, Political Science Department

October 2022 - January 2023, Santa Barbara CA

Research assistant for Professor Clayton Nall, whose work focuses on housing policies and folk economics. Programmed models and drafted write-ups about local development measures.

Talking Feds Podcast / Production Assistant

June 2022 - January 2023, San Diego

Marketer, website engineer, digital designer, and episode namer on podcast with hundreds of thousands of listeners. Spearheaded YouTube page and increased viewership by 900%.

Volunteering

Academic Chair/ Tutor/ AEPi Jewish Fraternity

2023, Santa Barbara

Founded peer tutoring institution in which upper division students are paired up to tutor younger members of the fraternity. Personally tutor mathematics a few hours a week.

Languages

Fluent in English and Hebrew. Conversant in Mandarin.

Program in: Python, R, Java, Matlab, Mathematica, LaTeX