

# Derek Dietz

Chicago IL | derekdietz2026@u.northwestern.edu | 571-426-5907 | [linkedin.com/in/derek-dietz-engineer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/derek-dietz-engineer)  
[github.com/ddietz1](https://github.com/ddietz1)

## EDUCATION

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**Northwestern University, MS in Robotics** Dec 2026  
**College of William & Mary, BS in Physics** May 2022

## SKILLS

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**Software:** C++, Python, C, Matlab, Cmake ROS/ROS2, MAVROS, ArduSub, Git, Linux, SQL  
**Robotics:** SLAM, Computer Vision, MoveIT, tf2, Gazebo, YOLO, Rviz2, Unit Testing, Path Planning, Xacro  
**Embedded Systems:** I2C, UART, SPI, Sensor fusion, RealSense, Microcontroller Architecture, CAD

## EXPERIENCE

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**Epic Systems - Madison, WI, Technical Solutions Engineer** Sept 2023 – May 2025  
• Provided custom system integration and debugging support, improving Epic performance and client satisfaction

**NASA - Hampton, VA, Aerospace Engineering Intern** June 2022 – Feb 2023  
• Led intern cohort group to develop novel methods of resource delivery to wildland firefighters in CAD  
• Developed Python scripts for data acquisition and analysis across beyond-LOS autonomous aerial drone tests

## PROJECTS

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**Sensing and retrieval using BlueROV2 (ROS2, Python, OpenCV, YOLO)** March 2026  
• Built a ROS2 autonomy stack for a BlueROV2 achieving successful autonomous underwater object retrieval  
• Implemented a Python MAVROS–ArduSub interface enabling full 6-DOF velocity and actuator control  
• Designed perception pipeline capturing camera and pose data for downstream model training and evaluation  
• Trained and deployed a custom YOLOv8n model in ROS2 for real-time underwater object detection

**Extended Kalman Filter SLAM(C++, ROS2, Rviz2)** January 2026  
• Developed an EKF SLAM system in C++ to track turtlebot3 pose and map environment landmarks  
• Built a C++ library for 2D rigid body transformations and differential drive kinematics for odometry  
• Implemented circle detection and data association to identify and track landmarks from laser scan data  
• Leveraged CMake and Catch2 to build and validate a modular navigation stack with extensive unit tests

**Sensing and grasping with Franka arm (ROS2, Python, CV, YOLO)** November 2025  
• Integrated Intel RealSense D435i with a YOLO model to detect and correctly place model train cars onto a track  
• Implemented Python API to handle motion and scene planning using ROS2 MoveIt package  
• Developed open loop control methods to adjust train bogies to perfectly align with the track

**Biometric responsive Swarm Robotics game(Microbit, C)** November 2025  
• Developed an embedded C control stack on Micro:bit (nRF52) for joystick control of a Cutebot  
• Wrote low-level drivers for SAADC, GPIO, and I2C motor control to drive chassis at deterministic rates  
• Built closed-loop pursuit and avoidance behaviors using distributed heuristics and filtered velocity commands  
• Assembled, tested, and debugged embedded hardware in lab environment

## AWARDS

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**American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics(AIAA)** January 2023  
• 1st place winner of the SciTech Idea Challenge

**Virginia Microelectronics Consortium(VMEC)** August 2021  
• Gold Award winner for research presentation on photolithography toppling angles