

# GONZALO CORTES

New York, NY 10025 | [gonzalocortes101@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalocortes101@gmail.com) | [gonzalocortes.com](http://gonzalocortes.com)

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, *GPA: 3.7/4.00*

New York, NY

- *B.S. Mechanical Engineering; Minors in Computer Science & Aerospace Engineering (SEAS)* **Expected May 2027**
- **Relevant Coursework:** Data Structures, Thermodynamics, Mechanics of Solids, Fluid Mechanics, Data Analytics, Ordinary Differential Equations, Intro to Electrical Engineering, Computer Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Mechanics I
- **Recognitions:** Recipient of A. Peers Montgomery Memorial Scholarship & Columbia University Dean's List (Fall '23)
- **MAST Academy**, *Weighted GPA: 5.231* **August 2017 - June 2023**  
Miami, FL
- *Magna Cum Laude, National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Distinction Award*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Handshake AI**

Remote

*Model Validation Expert*

**July 2025 - December 2025**

- Worked with researchers at leading global AI labs to build domain-specific evaluations, review and annotate model outputs, and identify safety risks and failure cases to guide iteration cycles and deployment readiness
- Ranked top 5 out of 350 participants for prompt design, and consistently placed in top 15–20% across multiple projects

**Chromie Health**

New York, NY

*Software Engineer*

**July 2025 - August 2025**

- Spearheaded development of a messaging-driven workflow that reduced scheduling friction by capturing clinician requests, sequencing alternatives, and routing manager approvals: taking the project from initial concept to delivery
- Partnered directly with the CEO to architect the end-to-end process, ensuring the system scaled with clinic growth and remained intuitive for staff, while successfully launching an MVP under a compressed timeline
- Engineered and deployed a Twilio-based SMS interface with Flask and PostgreSQL, enabling real-time scheduling updates that cut communication delays and boosted clinician-manager coordination

**Kimberly-Clark**

Mexico City Metro Area, MX

*Data Engineer*

**June 2025 - July 2025**

- Audited three plants to identify process gaps, uncovered inefficiencies in downtime and scrap tracking across equipment
- Developed Python programs on each machine's PC to parse locked Excel logs, transmit data via Ethernet into a centralized SQL pipeline, and eliminate reliance on fragmented spreadsheets
- Delivered interactive dashboards and real-time reporting tools, giving managers cross-plant visibility into production, downtime, and quality metrics: accelerating decision-making and reducing reporting delays

**Mastec Civil**

Miami, FL

*Civil Engineer*

**June 2024 - August 2024**

- Created detailed quantity takeoffs and cost breakdowns in the estimating department, identifying opportunities to minimize costs through innovative material reuse strategies and refined budget adjustments
- Assisted field engineers on a large-scale highway project, traveling site-wide for real-time problem resolution

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Rowing**

**August 2019 - Present**

- NCAA Division I Varsity Lightweight Crew Team; chosen to stroke the 1st Varsity Boat of Columbia University
- Dedicate 40 hours per week to practice, conditioning, competition, and meetings while balancing a full course load
- Four-time USA National Medalist; ranked #1 U19 Rower in Mexico
- Represented Mexico at U19 World Championships (Varese, Italy) & won Bronze at Canamex Regatta (London, Canada)

**Scissor Jack Design and Fabrication**

**November 2025**

- Built a gear-synchronized scissor lift, iterating key components in SolidWorks and fabricating CNC-machined acrylic blocks plus laser-cut/3D-printed link prototypes to achieve smooth, symmetric motion from a single input

**Blackjack & Video Poker (Java, JavaFx)**

**May 2024**

- Refactored a Java console poker project into a polished desktop card game, implementing reusable core engines, Video Poker, and Blackjack via a state machine, and a JavaFX MVC GUI with robust state flow and edge-case handling

## SKILLS, CLUBS, AND INTERESTS

- Python, Java, SQL (PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server), Flask, Excel, Twilio, Spanish (Native)
- Columbia Space Initiative, Columbia University Formula Racing, Columbia University Airplane, Sigma Nu Fraternity
- Columbia Bartending Agency: Completed certification course, and earned an invitation to join the Mixology Roster
- Triathlons (Completed IRONMAN 70.3), Cycling (road & mountain), Skiing, Travel, Football, Scuba Diving