

Derek C. Max

Gainesville, FL | 561.430.8415 | DerekMax14@gmail.com

Education

University of Florida

May 2028

B.S. Mechanical Engineering & Aerospace Engineering | GPA: 3.7/4.0

Relevant Coursework: Thermodynamics I, Aerodynamics, Numerical Methods, Mechanics of Materials, Mechanical Engineering Design I

Honors: Dean's List (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025); President's Honor Roll (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Skills

Analysis & Design: SolidWorks, ANSYS / SolidWorks Simulation, MATLAB, LabVIEW, Microsoft Excel / Word / PowerPoint

Mechanical Engineering: CAD, static structural FEA, thermodynamics, component/interface definition, engineering trade studies, analytical verification

Build & Test: Machining, precision measurement, mechanical assembly, pressure-vessel instrumentation, data acquisition, model-to-test comparison

Certification: Certified SOLIDWORKS Associate (CSWA) - Mechanical Design; BACE Certification

Project Experience

SolidWorks Structural Analysis & Design Verification | Course Project

Fall 2026

- Built static structural studies in SolidWorks Simulation using defined loads, fixtures, material properties, and mesh settings to evaluate stress and displacement.
- Compared simulation results with analytical and failure-criterion checks; documented assumptions, safety margins, and design implications to support verification and design iteration.

Reaction-Wheel Cube - Single-Vertex Balancing | Independent Project

Aug 2026 - Present

- Designed the preliminary actuation architecture for a 150 mm cube intended to balance on a single vertex by calculating wheel inertia, angular momentum, and motor-torque requirements and comparing BLDC motor/controller candidates.
- Validated an interference-free SolidWorks packaging layout by integrating three orthogonal 70 mm-diameter reaction-wheel modules and electronics envelopes and optimizing their positions to achieve 3.16-3.18 mm wheel clearances.

LabVIEW Pressure-Vessel Instrumentation & Analysis | Mechanics of Materials Lab

Summer 2026

- Developed a LabVIEW data-acquisition setup with dual strain-gauge/amplifier channels to tare, acquire, and log hoop and axial strain during pressure-vessel testing.
- Calibrated instrumentation and compared measured response with mechanics-of-materials predictions using uncertainty analysis, strengthening hands-on experience with measurement, validation, and troubleshooting test data.

Air Engine Design & Manufacturing | Design & Manufacturing Lab

Spring 2026

- Machined and assembled functional air-engine components using a manual lathe, vertical mill, drilling, and tapping; verified dimensions with precision measurement tools during fabrication and fit-up.
- Applied tolerancing, fits, fastener selection, and manufacturing-process planning to produce functional hardware and resolve fit-up issues during mechanical integration.

Engineering Experience

Solar Gators | Aerobody Team Member

Dec 2025 - Jul 2026

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Contributed to aerodynamic fairing and body-structure design for a solar vehicle, coordinating design decisions with structural, manufacturing, and vehicle-integration needs.
- Supported fastener selection, manufacturability, and aerodynamic testing within a multidisciplinary student engineering team.

Additional Experience

Mathnasium | Mathematics Instructor

Jul 2023 - Aug 2025

Boca Raton, FL

- Tutored 300+ students from elementary mathematics through differential equations, adapting technical explanations and problem-solving methods to individual learning needs.
- Managed concurrent student sessions and tracked progress across individualized learning plans, strengthening communication, organization, and time-management skills.