

The project is a core component of my PhD dissertation titled “Modeling driver behavior during automated vehicle failures” and has helped me learn advanced skills in computational modeling of driver behavior, data mining and analysis, and automated vehicle safety. This project directly complemented the coursework of ISEN 689 “Human Factors in Transportation”, ISEN 689 “Human Performance Modeling”, and ISEN 631 “Cognitive Systems Engineering”, which required the development of computational models, proposals, and technical papers. This project developed my technical skills and allowed me to reflect those in my coursework. All in all, the project exposed me to real-life scenarios and research methodologies and motivated me to leverage scientific solutions to address real-life problems, which enhance human health and safety.

-Hananeh Alambeigi

The driving simulation research project I participated in aided me in learning technical reading and writing skills, introduced me to data modeling in Matlab, and allowed me to network with professionals in transportation and engineering. In my course, MMET 422- Manufacturing Technology Projects, I am working on a capstone project. Many of the research and technical writing skills I developed while working and presenting this research project directly translate to this class. These skills helped me learn to analyze large quantities of information and learn about a new topic, similar to what I did when I first joined the autonomous vehicles research project and had to learn about these kinds of research studies. In addition, the project allowed me to present at both TTI and the Undergraduate Research Symposium. These presentations helped me learn how to communicate technical information, and prepare for Q&A, which are both useful skills for participating in technical job interviews, which I have been doing of late. Overall the experience contributed immensely to my professional and intellectual growth.

- Cara Stotz

Working with Dr. McDonald on this project helped me discover a passion for machine learning and thoroughly developed my technical programming skills. Alongside classes such as “ISEN 613 – Advanced Data Analytics” and “ISTM 650 – Business Data Mining”, my professional internships with Walmart and PwC required strong programming skills and an understanding complex data operation. Working with real world data on a subject as revolutionary as autonomous vehicles sharpened my programming skills and ability explain data beyond the numbers. Overall, my experience working on this project gave me an opportunity to understand the methodologies of machine learning and valuable experience that is highly applicable to my career.

- Srinivas Tankasala