Sarah VanVelzer

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Education

University of Waterloo Sep. 2024 – Aug. 2029
Honours Bachelor of Computer Science, Business & Computer Science Double Degree *Waterloo, ON*

Wilfrid Laurier University Sep. 2024 – Aug. 2029
Honours Bachelor of Business Administration, Business & Computer Science Double Degree *Waterloo, ON*

Term GPA: 11.4/12.0 (A average)
Relevant Coursework: Data Structures, Object-Oriented Software Development (C++), Compilers & Assembly
Honours: Governor General's Academic Medal, Class Valedictorian (2024), 2025 Dean's Honour Roll

Projects

Soul Stride | *Founder* Oct. 2026 – Present
- Building an iOS app that helps women runners adapt their race plan to daily changes in energy, symptoms, and cycle, then shows whether each adjustment helped; currently validating before MVP
- Led user research by contacting 30+ run clubs and collecting 50+ survey responses from women runners, using findings to define MVP scope and prioritize core features

Jayfound (Hack the North) | *Next.js, Supabase, Vercel* Sep. 2026
- Solo-built a talent-discovery platform in 36 hours connecting overlooked students in Jinja, Uganda with recruiters through mentor-endorsed portfolios; demoed to Hack the North judges
- Designed a weighted ranking system combining portfolio depth, puzzle-arcade performance, and mentor endorsements so recruiters can filter and surface talent beyond traditional credentials

Zyra | *React Native, TypeScript, Expo* Jun. 2026 – Present
- Designed and built a mobile productivity app, powered by a custom multi-factor algorithm that weighs deadline proximity, user engagement, and task neglect to dynamically re-rank priorities
- Engineered a live radar visualization mapping attention scores to polar coordinates, with collision-aware positioning to keep task dots and labels readable as priorities shift in real time

Experience

Junior Investment Banking Analyst (Incoming) Jan. 2027 – Apr. 2027
NewPoint Capital Partners Inc. *Toronto, ON*
- Selected to support financial modeling, valuation analyses, and pitch/CIM preparation for M&A and financing transactions ranging $10M–$250M across mid-market clients

Accounting Co-op, Financial Insights & Reporting Jan. 2026 – Apr. 2026
BDO Canada LLP *Strathroy, ON*
- Built financial statements from raw client data in CaseWare and Excel across corporate tax returns, compilations, and no-report engagements
- Completed engagements 3x faster than co-ops at larger BDO offices (3–4 days vs. two weeks), per mentor feedback, while partnering closely with one teammate to deliver the highest T1 filing volume in the region

Leadership & Global Impact

International STEM Outreach Lead Mar. 2024
Just Cause Education Outreach *Jinja, Uganda*
- Planned and ran logistics for the Ugandan Robotics League championship, coordinating schedules, materials, and venue setup for 400+ students and coaches nationwide
- Designed and delivered an activities day for 200+ primary school students in a rural community, overcoming language barriers to lead group programming

Director of Internal & External Affairs Sep. 2025 – Aug. 2026
Double Degree Club *Waterloo, ON*
- Led end-to-end planning of club-wide events and coordinated external communications and partnerships as part of the executive team

Skills & Interests

Languages: Python, Java, C/C++, TypeScript, SQL, R
Frameworks & Tools: React Native, Next.js, Supabase, Expo, Git, HTML/CSS
Finance: Securities Valuation (Bond & Equity), Financial Statement Analysis, Forecasting, CaseWare
Interests: Marathons & triathlons (4x OFSAA athlete), expanding tech access, women-in-business & entrepreneurship