Gabriel Durazo

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SUMMARY

Aerospace Engineering student at the Illinois Institute of Technology, hoping to get into the aerospace industry involving propulsion data analysis and deep space exploration. Building skills in SOLIDWORKS, MATLAB, and ANSYS through academics, while holding leadership positions in collegiate sports and club organizations.

EDUCATION

Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech), Chicago, IL MAY 2028

Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, GPA, 3.82

Related courses: Aerodynamics for Aerospace Vehicles, Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Compressible Flow, Aerospace Propulsion, Aerospace Laboratory, and Aerospace Materials Lab.

SKILLS

- **SOFTWARE**: ANSYS, MATLAB, MATLAB Simulink, VS Code, Python, SOLIDWORKS FEA, Microsoft Applications, and Google Applications.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC) SEP 2025 – PRESENT
Structures Research, Illinois Tech Rocketry, Chicago, IL

- Researched and analyzed with a team of 10 to create a team competition rocket that will be used in IREC.
- Worked with the structure sub-team to utilize SolidWorks and ANSYS to analyze the structural specifications of the club's rocket that will be used in competitions.
- Spearheaded the creation of an apogee calculator with a partner in MATLAB Simulink to analyze accurate theoretical data that will match experimental data in rocket launch IREC competitions.
- Analyzed shear modulus in composite materials to develop more efficient options for constructing rockets.
- Club rocket will be planned to launch during the competition event between June 14th – 19th 2027 in Midland, Texas.

SolidWorks Modeling, Chicago, IL NOV 2025 – PRESENT

- Learned how to cut, extrude, revolve, and create custom curves for complex components.
- Analyzed and designed 5 projects utilizing skill sets, including style spine, toolbox, and file organization.
- Recent project involved a variable nozzle cone fitted onto a turbojet engine. Worked with 764 components and 17 subassemblies.

Dezi Community School, Engineers Without Borders, Chicago, IL APR 2024 – OCT 2025

- Collaborated with the Dezi Community in Kavule, Mayuge District, to start construction of 4 classrooms to increase the school's capacity from 60 to 345 students.
- Constructed and signed a Bill of Quantities, Contractor Bid, and Construction Contract to ensure the construction of this project.
- Worked with the EWB East Africa Office, the Kavule local government, and local contractors to ensure the project was done to their specifications.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Student Worker – Illinois Tech Athletics, Chicago, IL JAN 2026 – PRESENT

- Operated the front desk and weight room, maintaining safety and security throughout the Keating Athletic Center.
- Maintained safety of the facility by ensuring proper equipment usage and rules and regulations were adhered to.
- Assisted with questions on how the athletic facility operated and where equipment is located.

Crew Trainer – Space Camp, Huntsville, AL MAY 2026 – AUG 2026

- Inspired a group of 14-17 campers to be leaders of the future by overseeing and guiding students through self-led activities.
- Taught the mission purpose of NASA and space history using my own lesson plans and artifacts at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Davidson Center.
- Educated campers on the basics of rocketry and guided them in the construction of single- and dual-stage rockets using rocket-building kits.
- Collaborated with up to 10 other crew trainers to ensure the safety and education of crew trainees.

Carpenter – 3D Construction LLC, Gardiner, ME JUN 2023 – JAN 2026

- Collaborated with 4 others to construct framing for 2-story homes from start to finish and renovate commercial buildings such as restaurants and hotels.
- Completed about 5 projects in one summer, which consisted of fully framing 3 2-story homes, renovations of a restaurant, Fat Toad's Pub, and an apartment.
- Competent in the use of power tools and carpentry tools such as drills, impact drills, saws, nail guns, and routers.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Vice President, Chicago, IL MAR 2025 – PRESENT

- Communicate with the student-athlete body on campus to address their issues within the sports programs.
- Collaborate with 2 representatives from each sport with up to 17 sports teams total.
- Lead club meetings with issues internally and nationwide as part of the Division III National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
- Advocated last year for women's wrestling to become an official sport, which has been approved for the 2027-2028 academic year.

NCAA Cross-Country/Track, Team Captain, Chicago, IL JUL 2024 – PRESENT

- Actively work with coaches and teammates to help build team cohesiveness and connection.
- Monitor the health and well-being of my teammates to make sure they are getting proper sleep, food, and academic support.
- Inspire teammates to stay passionate even after bad athletic results, academic challenges, or personal setbacks within the larger group or one by one.
- In 2026, received an award for "Excellence in Sports," which recognizes strong commitment to the sport through team spirit and engagement.

Mitchell Institute, Regional Ambassador, Chicago, IL JUL 2025 – PRESENT

- Construct a virtual network for 71 Maine high schoolers who continued their education out-of-state as a Mitchell scholar.
- Conduct networking events to help scholars find mentors, advice, and connections into the workforce.
- Guide scholars who might be having a hard time continuing school away from home.