

Nikolai Mckenzie

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Springfield, IL 62701

SUMMARY

Recent graduate with a Master's in Geological Engineering. Passionate about geotechnical exploration and analytical challenges, bringing firsthand experience in field reconnaissance and technical reporting. Collaborative team player skilled at utilizing software tools for design and analysis. Proven capacity to convey complex geological concepts, further enriched by hands-on roles in academic projects. Enthusiastic about leveraging skills in real-world applications to rigorously support ongoing projects while continuously seeking innovative solutions. Ready to contribute effectively to a dedicated team and tackle various geological projects with adaptability and empathy.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Geological Engineering

University of Illinois GPA: 3.8

2026

Champaign, IL

Coursework: Soil Mechanics, Geotechnical Engineering, Environmental Geology, Rock Mechanics

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Computer Software: GeoStudio, MATLAB, Excel
- Geotechnical Techniques: Sieve Analysis, Soil Boring, Field Sampling
- Modeling Tools: MATLAB, AutoCAD, ArcGIS
- Research Methods: Field Testing, Laboratory Analysis, Statistical Evaluation
- Project Management Tools: Trello, Asana, Microsoft Project
- Technical Documentation: Reports, Specifications, Technical Presentations
- Safety Standards: OSHA Guidelines, EPA Regulations, ANSI Standards
- Data Collection Methods: Surveys, Observations, Experiments
- Environmental Assessment: Impact Studies, Compliance Reviews, Risk Analysis
- Presentation Tools: PowerPoint, Google Slides, Canva

SKILLS

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|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Geotechnical Analysis | Team Collaboration | Research Methodologies | Soil Behavior Analysis |
| GeoStudio | Field Testing | Modeling Techniques | Construction Planning |
| Technical Writing | Data Interpretation | Problem Solving | Documentation Skills |
| MS Office Suite | Project Management | Statistical Analysis | |

EXPERIENCE

Geological Research Assistant

University Project

January 2025 - May 2026

Springfield, IL

Supported geotechnical projects through research and data collection efforts while enhancing practical geological skills. Coordinated team tasks effectively to ensure project objectives were met on time.

- Performed comprehensive geotechnical explorations and managed field work logistics.
- Guided the quality control of collected data, ensuring adherence to research objectives.
- Developed geo-material parameters using advanced modeling techniques for improved outcomes.
- Collaborated within a multi-disciplinary team to execute engineered calculations reliably.
- Authored technical reports that clarified research findings, bolstering peer technical discussions.
- Participated in academic conferences, showcasing the research contributions made during the tenure.

Capstone Project Developer

University Project

August 2024 - December 2024

Springfield, IL

Led an extensive capstone project centered on geotechnical engineering, engaging in practical field tests and analysis to articulate soil behavior uniquely.

- Designed and executed field test plans, analyzing results to extract valuable insights.
- Harnessed GeoStudio software for modeling variations within soil profile behaviors accurately.
- Generated construction specifications tailored to meet both project requirements and professional standards.
- Collaborated closely with peers, overcoming project-route challenges together and fostering a spirit of teamwork.
- Presented key findings at university events, receiving encouraging feedback and recognition.
- Acquired invaluable first-hand experience relating theory with practice to promote improvement.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Dean's List - University of Illinois, 2024
- Dean's List - University of Illinois, 2025

CERTIFICATIONS

- Fundamentals of Geology Exam  2026

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Geological Engineering Society, 2024 - Present
- Volunteer, Community Environmental Awareness Program, 2025 - Present

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST