

# Samuel Besley

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Data Science student at Emory University with hands-on experience building NLP pipelines, training and evaluating machine learning models, and deploying full-stack data applications. Proficient in Python, scikit-learn, and transformer-based NLP (BERT, HuggingFace); comfortable across the full modeling lifecycle from feature engineering to deployment. Seeking Data Scientist and ML Engineer roles at tech companies where applied ML has direct product impact.

## EDUCATION

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**Emory University** Atlanta, GA  
*B.S. in Data Science, International Studies Track* May 2026  
Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning (QTM 347), Natural Language Processing (CS/QTM/LING 329), Data Structures, Applied Regression, East European Politics, International Relations & Conflict

## EXPERIENCE

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**Photographer & Communications Contributor** Aug 2023 – May 2024  
*Oxford College of Emory University* Oxford, GA

- Conducted interviews and produced photo content for Emory's official communications team, published across institutional social media and web channels
- Collaborated with faculty, staff, and students to capture and communicate institutional stories to external audiences

**Server & Bartender** May 2024 – Aug 2024  
*Seven Acre Dairy* Madison, WI

- Provided guest-facing service in a high-volume environment, managing client relationships and resolving issues in real time

**Server & Bartender** Aug 2022 – Sep 2023  
*Everly* Madison, WI

- Provided guest-facing service in a high-volume environment, managing client relationships and resolving issues in real time

**Volunteer Volleyball Coach** Jun 2022 – Jul 2023  
*High Point Christian School* Madison, WI

- Led practices and clinics across age groups, drawing on 8+ years of competitive playing experience to develop teamwork and technical skills

## PROJECTS

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**EpsTracked: Document Analysis Dashboard** Spring 2026

- Developed a full-stack, live-deployed NLP application (eps-tracked.vercel.app) for exploring extracted events and entities from the publicly released Epstein document corpus
- Engineered a Python backend pipeline that extracted and classified 2,599 events across 787 document threads, assigning event types (communicative, concealment, financial, relational) and probabilistic trafficking likelihood scores, and identified 515 unique entities
- Designed an interactive React/TypeScript frontend with a multi-view dashboard (events, entities, flagged, threads) deployed on Vercel; completed as a project for CS/QTM/LING 329 (Computational Linguistics)

**NYC Airbnb Price Prediction** Spring 2026

- Trained a price prediction model on 48,000+ NYC Airbnb listings combining structured features (location, room type) with NLP-derived signals extracted from listing names
- Engineered 25 features including luxury keyword frequency, capitalization ratio, and word statistics; benchmarked OLS, Ridge, LASSO, and Random Forest models
- Achieved R2 of 0.53 and MAE of ~\$60 on log-transformed prices; demonstrated that NLP features contributed meaningful signal beyond structured data alone

## ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

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**Volleyball Club, Oxford College of Emory University** 2023 – 2024  
*President*

- Elected president; organized practices, managed club operations, and led recruitment across the student body

## SKILLS

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**ML / NLP:** Regression modeling, Random Forest, Ridge/LASSO, Transformers (BERT), RNNs, Text feature engineering

**Programming:** Python (pandas, scikit-learn, NumPy, HuggingFace), SQL, R, Java, JavaScript

**Tools & Platforms:** Jupyter Notebook, Git/GitHub, Excel, PyCharm

**Languages:** English (native), German (proficient), Spanish (proficient)