

Izhan S. Ansari

Cary, NC • IzhanAnsari97@gmail.com • 919-696-3815
linkedin.com/in/izhan-ansari

SUMMARY

Operator and product builder with a CS and business undergraduate degree and an MS in Engineering Management. Have founded and scaled a consumer brand, managed a restaurant turnaround, and shipped software across web and mobile — moving fluidly between brand strategy, growth marketing, workflow automation, and full-stack development. Seeking a product or operations role at a mission-driven company where building things that matter is the job.

EDUCATION

Master of Engineering Management

Dec 2025

North Carolina State University — Entrepreneurship Concentration | Raleigh, NC

GPA: 3.90 | Relevant Courses: Hi-Tech Product Launches, Managing New Product Creation, Practical Machine Learning, Operations Research, Applied Engineering Economics, Engineering Leadership & Strategic Change, Project Management, Experimental Statistics

BS Business Administration & BA Computer Science

May 2020

UNC Chapel Hill — Kenan-Flagler Business School | Chapel Hill, NC

GPA: 3.73 | Relevant Courses: Data Structures, Web Programming, Robotics, Corporate Finance, Venture Capital, Advanced Spreadsheet Modeling, Entrepreneurship

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Chief Operator

Dec 2025 – Present

Sahara Delights — Small-batch Middle Eastern confectionery brand | Cary, NC

- Launched Sahara Delights in 6 weeks — a luxury stuffed fruit gifting brand that scaled to \$40K in monthly revenue across e-commerce, corporate catering, and wholesale
- Cut fulfillment time by ~40% by deploying a custom React fulfillment tool that replaced order-by-order production with a parallel, data-driven workflow — telling staff exactly how many of each item to make and which box sizes and shipping labels to prep
- Developed full brand positioning, visual identity, and packaging for 6 product collections — including naming, copywriting, and a calm luxury aesthetic that drove repeat gift purchases and corporate catering adoption

Operations & Technology Manager

Nov 2023 – Present

Hibachi Blue — Independent restaurant concept | Cary, NC

- Managed a declining restaurant through a full operational turnaround — bringing the business to breakeven within 13 months despite renovation costs and a full team rebuild
- Overhauled restaurant technology stack from Square to Toast — configuring KDS, kiosk ordering, and standardized ticket workflows that reduced order errors by ~30% and cut average ticket time by 25%
- Redesigned the menu, built an online ordering site, and unified pricing across DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats — repositioning the brand as a fresh build-your-own concept and growing online order volume by 50%

Growth & Operations Lead

Nov 2020 – Jun 2021

CovClinic — Healthcare & COVID testing provider | Las Vegas, NV

- Scaled a COVID testing startup to 14 sites across 5 states — closing corporate, event, and athletics accounts that drove 1,400+ tests per week and securing venues through profit-sharing negotiations

- Built a patient registration web app that increased throughput by 80% — automating data exports to each lab's unique result format and back into branded PDFs delivered directly to customer portals
- Designed automated email workflows via Google Sheets to deliver personalized test results to thousands of patients weekly, eliminating manual outreach entirely

Software Engineering Associate

Jun – Aug 2019

MetLife Insurance | Cary, NC

- Built a self-service VM provisioning web app using PowerShell and HTML/CSS — accessible only within MetLife's firewall and authenticated via company credentials — that eliminated a 3-day manual bottleneck, letting engineers provision their own machines in under 5 minutes

Client Solutions Associate

Jun – Aug 2018

Perkbox — Employee benefits and recognition platform | London, UK

- Built an Excel macro that automated client usage reporting across a 10-person team — eliminating 20+ labor hours of daily data formatting and allowing the team to focus on client strategy
- Joined a cross-functional product team to prototype a gamified perk discovery feature — wireframing UX flows and building a leaderboard concept from ideation to implementation for enterprise clients like Whole Foods and Levi's

SELECTED PROJECTS

SHUKR — iOS Prayer & Habit Tracker

2024 – Present

- Designed and launched a SwiftUI iOS prayer tracking app to TestFlight with 100 beta users — consolidating prayer times, direction, and tracking into a single intuitive view with color-coded progress indicators, replacing the fragmented 3-screen experience common in competing apps
- Engineered non-standard iOS features including an interactive home screen widget with live state changes, an iOS Shortcuts-based alarm to bypass native alarm restrictions, and a tiered prayer reminder system that escalates notifications at 50% and 25% remaining prayer time
- Built a full feature set spanning session timers, prayer scoring, a prayer location map, haptic interactions, and a meditation/mantra counter with historical pace tracking — iterating the product from scratch with no prior native iOS experience

MOLD3D — Product Innovation Lab, NC State

2025

- Led product strategy for a rapid-tooling concept using 3D-printed molds for injection molding — conducting customer interviews, design thinking research, market sizing, and competitive analysis to evaluate product-market fit across manufacturing use cases
- Collaborated directly with industry sponsor Rapid Shape to develop CAD assets and prototypes to validate the concept and ground the solution in real additive manufacturing constraints
- Built pitch deck materials that translated complex manufacturing concepts into a clear business case

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: JavaScript (React.js, Node.js), SwiftUI, Swift, Python, Java, C++, HTML/CSS, VBA, BASH, PowerShell, Google Apps Script

Tools & Platforms: Shopify, Liquid, Xcode, TestFlight, Vercel, Figma, Salesforce, Toast POS, ShipStation, Meta Ads Manager, Canva, Excel/Sheets, Cloudflare, WordPress, Fusion 360

AI Tools: Claude, ChatGPT, Cursor

Competencies: Product Operations, Brand Strategy, Workflow Automation, API Integration, Data Analysis, Agile/Sprint Management, Human-Centered Design, Wireframing, Consumer UX