

# Maya Chalissery

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## SUMMARY

Full stack product designer with 3+ years of experience focused on health tech and AI-driven products. Background in mental health and human-AI interaction, with 80+ user research sessions conducted to inform product decisions from early concept through launch. Translates behavioral and clinical insight into clear decisions across UX, system behavior, and safety.

## EXPERIENCE

### Co-Founder, Head of Product

Oct 2024 – Present

*Embrace* — San Diego, CA

*Selected for Blackstone LaunchPad & The Basement (UC San Diego startup incubator)*

*Sensory wearable for real-time anxiety regulation through tactile interaction.* | [mayachalissery.com/embrace](https://mayachalissery.com/embrace)

- Designed the first wearable combining 4 independently controllable sensory modalities (compression, cooling, warmth, vibration) for non-pharmaceutical, on-the-go anxiety relief.
- Validated modality placement through 5 in-person sessions, 6 take-home field tests, and a survey dataset of n=86, cross-referenced against scientific evidence for sensory relief efficacy by body region.
- Zero concept rejections across all sessions; all participants said they would wear a discreet version in daily life — all friction was about prototype polish, not the premise.
- Collecting ongoing efficacy data; early sentiment confirms strong user pull toward the concept across diverse testing contexts.
- Pivoted from automated to manually adjustable compression after 4 medical professionals flagged automated systems as a clinical safety risk; manual control was already validated in therapeutic contexts and reduced failure modes.
- Identified thermal interference between heating and cooling modules through hands-on prototype testing; resolved by separating modules and validated by a comparative preference dataset across both configurations.
- Aligned 4 stakeholders and 4 advisors spanning engineering, clinical, and business domains, translating their input into concrete design constraints across hardware and software touchpoints.

### AI Product Manager (Contract) — Conversational UX & Evaluation

Mar – May 2026

*CocoHealth* — San Francisco Bay Area

*Conversational AI interaction design for a health and habit-coaching product.*

- Defined conversational UX specifications across 5 areas: turn-taking behavior, daily check-in scheduling, persona voice, mental health safety boundaries, and UX evaluation criteria.
- Designed and ran a structured evaluation framework benchmarking ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude across conversation quality, safety handling, and tool use across 7 scenario types; Gemini outperformed in 4 of 7, informing interaction design decisions.
- Mapped 5 end-to-end conversation flows, identifying failure modes in pacing, premature action-taking, and tool-call boundary duplication.
- Reviewed 8+ safety evaluation failures, finding ~80–90% clustered around escalation and triage handling — informing safety boundary specifications.

### UI/UX Designer (Internship)

Oct 2025 – Mar 2026

*ADGTech* — Remote

*UX for a web-based AI documentation tool, focused on workflow clarity and usability.*

- Led UX design across 5 core product interfaces for a web-based AI documentation tool, iterating each through continuous design cycles.
- Built high-fidelity interactive prototypes in Figma and FigmaMake, reaching dev handoff in 2 stakeholder review rounds; base interaction design held constant through v1 and v2 as it tested well with target users.
- Defined a responsive design system and cross-platform UX patterns adopted across the full product.

### Digital Media & AI Specialist

Jan – Sep 2025

*UC San Diego — Business & Financial Services* — La Jolla, CA

- Cut manual video annotation time by 80% by applying AI-assisted metadata tagging to migrate 500+ educational videos, making content fully searchable.
- Redesigned the departmental intranet and built a centralized support hub in CMS, improving navigation for 1,200+ staff.
- Streamlined ServiceNow workflows, reducing manual steps and operational friction.

## EDUCATION

### B.S., Cognitive Science (Human-Centered Design)

Jun 2025

*UC San Diego, La Jolla CA*

Product Design & Entrepreneurship · Data-Driven UX · Usability Testing · Information Architecture · Product Marketing & Management

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Future of AI

*BlueDot Impact*

Issued Jun 2026

AI Literacy & AI Safety

[Show credential](#)

## TOOLS

Figma & FigmaMake  
Adobe Creative Suite  
Sketch  
Miro  
Webflow  
Notion

## SKILLS

### Design

Interaction Design  
Conversational AI Design  
Human-AI Interaction  
Mental Health UX  
UX/UI Design  
Design Systems  
Prototyping  
Responsive Design  
Information Architecture

### Research

User Research  
Usability Testing  
Safety Evaluation