

Rebecca L. Martinez

Undergraduate Researcher | Student Assistant
Environmental Studies Program | University of California, Santa Barbara
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Education

B.S. in Environmental Studies , University of California, Santa Barbara	Expected 2026
A.S. in Biology , Allan Hancock College (<i>With honors</i>)	Spring 2024
A.A. in Biology , Allan Hancock College (<i>With honors</i>)	Winter 2023
A.A. in Mathematics and Science , Allan Hancock College (<i>With high honors</i>)	Spring 2021
IT Fundamentals Certificate , Allan Hancock College	Spring 2024

Research Experience

Undergraduate Researcher , UC Santa Barbara <i>Geologic Nitrogen Inputs to Semi-Arid Soils with and without Mammalian Bioturbation</i> Under Dr. Iris Holzer's guidance, collected and prepared rock samples using rock saw and shatterbox. Prepared powdered samples in foil capsules for isotope analysis.	Winter 2025–Present
Research Assistant , UC Davis Soil Carbon Project <i>Soil Carbon Stabilization Study</i> Assisted with pit digging, bulk density sampling, and soil auger collection at UCNRS Sedgwick Reserve. Performed USDA soil profile descriptions and applied safe sampling protocols while supporting team morale.	Spring 2025–Present
Student Assistant , UCSB Office of Education Partnerships Collected data, maintained field sites, repaired equipment, updated protocols, and supported project logistics to improve research operations.	Fall 2024–Present
Peer Mentor , UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program Mentored students during a field workshop at Santa Cruz Island Reserve; trained them on field sensors including camera traps, Audiomoths, and GPS; supported ecological data collection using FAIR data practices.	Summer 2024, 2025
Participant , UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program Completed advanced field methods and data science training at UCNRS Santa Cruz Island Reserve and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), Panama, including RStudio/PositCloud instruction.	Summer 2023

Teaching and Mentorship

Discussion Leader , UCSB–Smithsonian ERES Program Guided undergraduates in using RStudio/PositCloud for data manipulation and visualization, emphasizing collaborative learning, equitable access, and open science principles.	Summer 2024, 2025
Teaching Assistant , Allan Hancock College Human Anatomy Open Lab Managed Friday lab sessions, including setup and breakdown; developed visual study guides, led office hours, and supported human cadaver lab activities.	2023–2024
Tutor , Academic Resource Center & STEM Center, Allan Hancock College Provided one-on-one and group tutoring in biology, chemistry, math, and general education.	2019–2024
Lead Tutor ; trained new tutors, led workshops on study skills and time management, and supported onboarding of staff and faculty.	2020–2024
Embedded Tutor ; Hosted review sessions and office hours, helped with grading, and customized study materials for life and physical science courses	2020–2024

Leadership and Service

Outreach Volunteer , UCSB Veteran Support Center Organized networking events to connect veteran students and women veterans within UCSB's communities.	2024–Present
Science Outreach Volunteer , Allan Hancock College Life & Physical Sciences Department Designed and facilitated hands-on science activities for local K–12 students; created educational materials and coordinated event logistics.	2022–2024
Student Representative , Allan Hancock College Served as a student representative for faculty and staff hiring committees and Title V Committee to advocate for student needs.	2021–2023
Permanent Member , Alpha Gamma Sigma Aquarius Honor Society, Allan Hancock College Vice President ; Organized meetings and contributed to executive decisions.	2019–Present 2020–2021
Community Service Chair ; Led service projects, fundraisers, and developed an online tracking system.	2022–2023
Key Volunteer , Santa Barbara County Toys for Tots Coordinated donation efforts and distributed toys to children during holiday seasons.	2018–Present
United States Marine Corps Completed training in land navigation, survival skills, swim qualification, and CBRN defense; developed leadership and operational skills applicable to research and fieldwork.	2005–2010

Presentations

Abstract submitted for AGU Fall Meeting: <i>Geologic Nitrogen Inputs to Semi-Arid Soils with and without Mammalian Bioturbation</i> , New Orleans, LA.	December 2025
<i>Learning from the Ground Up: Mammalian Bioturbators, Soil, & Undergraduate Education</i> , UCSB Environmental Studies 55th Anniversary, Santa Barbara, CA.	April 2025
<i>Guest Speaker</i> , Allan Hancock Foundation Honors Gala, Santa Maria, CA	May 2024
<i>Comparison of Species Richness & Functional Richness Between Barro Colorado Island and Pipeline Road in Panama</i> , Cal Poly Summer Internship Research Symposium, San Luis Obispo, CA.	August 2023
<i>Comparison of Species Richness & Functional Richness Between Barro Colorado Island and Pipeline Road in Panama</i> , UCSB Fall Undergraduate Research Showcase, Santa Barbara, CA.	November 2023

Awards and Scholarships

UCNRS Field Science Fellowship	2025
Wenger Scholarship	2025
Gene & Susan Lucas Undergraduate Research Fund	2025
G. Allan Hancock Scholarship	2024
Allan Hancock MESA Scholarship	2023
Brander Single Parent Scholarship	2022, 2023, 2024
Joyce Dendo Veteran Scholarship (Inaugural)	2021
Kathleen D. Loly Service Scholarship	2021
Joan Semelsberger Scholarship	2021, 2022, 2023
Virginia B. Martinez Memorial Scholarship	2021
AGS Aquarius Honor Society Leadership Award	2021

Programs and Affiliations

Bren–Environmental Studies Fellows Program	2025–Present
Tau Sigma National Honor Society	2025–Present
American Geophysical Union (AGU)	2025–Present
UCSB Promise Scholars	2024–Present
UCSB Letters & Science Honors Program	2024–Present
UCSB Student Veterans Association (SVA)	2024–Present
UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program	2023–Present
Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society	2019–Present
Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Assistance (ACTLA)	2020–Present
Lompoc Veteran Advisory Committee (LVAC)	2018–Present

Last updated: August 8, 2025

https://rebeccalmartinez.github.io/personal_website/