

Rebecca L. Martinez

Curriculum Vitae

Undergraduate Researcher and Student Assistant
University of California, Santa Barbara
Office of Education Partnerships
Santa Barbara, CA

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Education

B.S. Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara *Expected 2026*

A.S. Biology, Allan Hancock College *with honors, May 2024*

A.A. Biology, Allan Hancock College *with honors, May 2023*

A.A. Mathematics and Science, Allan Hancock College *with high honors, May 2021*

IT Fundamentals Certificate, Allan Hancock College *May 2024*

Research Experience

Peer Mentor, ERES Field Research Workshop, Santa Cruz Island UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program (Summer 2025) - Guided students in sensor deployment: camera traps and Audiomoth (bioacoustic recording device) - Supported student learning in land navigation and orienteering, data collection, and FAIR data practices

Undergraduate Researcher, 199RA UC Santa Barbara – under Dr. Iris Holzer (Winter 2025–Present) *The Role of Mammalian Bioturbators in Soil Formation and Elemental Cycling: Comparing rock-derived N release across the Channel Islands and the Transverse Ranges using an undergraduate-led research framework* - Collected and processed soil and rock samples - Prepped samples via rock saw for N-release assays and isotope analysis - Drafted literature review and developed learning resources - Planning AGU Fall Meeting presentation

Research Assistant, UCNRS Sedgwick Reserve (Spring 2025–Present) *Soil Carbon Stabilization Study* - Assisted with pit digging, bulk density sampling, and soil auger collection - Performed USDA soil profile descriptions: color, roots, pores, aggregates - Applied safe sampling protocols and helped maintain positive morale on long field days

Student Assistant, UCSB Office of Education Partnerships (Fall 2024–Present) - Revised protocols for the Fog Harp project - Collected and managed camera trap data for the Santa Cruz Island Skunk project - Maintained inventory and provided peer mentorship and support

Discussion Leader (Intern), UCSB-Smithsonian Data Bootcamp Smithsonian Data Science Lab – Dr. Alexander White (Summer 2023) - Facilitated data science instruction in R via RStudio/PositCloud as part of a Smithsonian Data Science Lab internship - Introduced biodiversity-focused datasets to undergraduates, emphasizing reproducible workflows and visual data communication

Participant, Advanced Field Research and Data Science Training, STRI Panama UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program (Summer 2023) - Completed two-week field methods course and advanced data science training in RStudio/PositCloud - Shadowed Smithsonian researchers to learn ecological field methods

and ongoing research at STRI and participated in guided ecotourism - Developed an a priori question and completed a group research project: *Comparison of Species Richness and Functional Richness on Barro Colorado Island and Pipeline Road in Panama*

Participant, ERES Field Research Workshop, Santa Cruz Island UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program (Summer 2023)

Teaching and Mentorship

Discussion Leader, UCSB-Smithsonian Data Bootcamp (Summer 2024, 2025) - Delivered R programming lessons tailored to undergraduates new to data science - Emphasized collaborative learning, equitable access to coding resources, and open science principles

Teaching Assistant, Human Anatomy Open Lab (2023–2024) Allan Hancock College – Alicia Fox - Managed Friday lab sessions: setup and breakdown - Developed visual study guides and led office hours - Provided support for human cadaver lab

Embedded Tutor (TA Support Role), Allan Hancock College (2020–2024) - Created review materials and led exam prep sessions - Held office hours and assisted with grading - Supported courses: Botany (Wendy Hadley), Cellular Biology and Physiology (Ashley Wise), Introductory and General Chemistry (Dr. James Houlis), Human Anatomy (Dr. Len Miyahara), and Microbiology (online, Dr. Tim Doyle)

Lead Tutor and Tutor, Allan Hancock College Academic Resource Center & STEM Center (2019–2024) - Delivered one-on-one and group tutoring in biology, chemistry, math, and general education - Promoted to Lead Tutor in 2020; trained new tutors and hosted workshops on study skills and time management - Assisted in staff and faculty onboarding orientations.

Leadership and Service

Outreach, UCSB Student Veterans Association (SVA) and She Raised Her Hand (2024–) - Organized networking events to bring together veteran students and women veterans from both UCSB's SVA and She Raised Her Hand network

Science Outreach Volunteer, Allan Hancock College Life & Physical Sciences Dept. (2022–2024) - Designed and ran hands-on science activities for local K–12 students - Created educational materials and coordinated event logistics

Student Representative, Allan Hancock College Hiring Committees (2023–2024) - Served as a student representative for full-time faculty and staff selection committees

Student Representative, Allan Hancock College Title V Committee (2021–2023) - Represented student needs in planning academic support programs - Worked with faculty lead and committee to improve and implement student support

Vice President & Community Service Chair, AGS Aquarius Honor Society (2019–2024) - Organized multiple community service projects and fundraisers - Created and implemented online service point tracking system

United States Marine Corps (2005–2010) - Completed specialized training in land navigation, survival skills, swim qualification, and CBRN defense. - Developed leadership and operational skills transferable to academic research and fieldwork.

Presentations

Learning from the ground up: Mammalian Bioturbators, Soil, & Undergraduate Education. UCSB Environmental Studies 55th Anniversary Symposium. Santa Barbara, CA, April 2025.

Student speaker, Allan Hancock Foundation Honors Gala. Santa Maria, CA, May 2024.

Comparison of Species Richness & Functional Richness Between Barro Colorado Island and Pipeline Road in Panama. Cal Poly Summer Internship Research Symposium. San Luis Obispo, CA, August 2023.

Comparison of Species Richness & Functional Richness Between Barro Colorado Island and Pipeline Road in Panama. 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, 2025–2026 cohort

Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Member since 2025

American Geophysical Union (AGU), Member since 2025

UCSB Promise Scholars Program, Member since 2024

UCSB Letters & Science Honors Program, Member since 2024

UCSB Student Veterans Association (SVA), Member since 2024

UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program (ERES participant 2023; discussion leader/mentor 2024–2025), Member since 2023

Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society (AGS), Vice President and Community Service Chair, Member since 2019

Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Assistance (ACTLA), Member since 2021

Lompoc Veteran Advisory Committee (LVAC), Member since 2017

Last updated: July 3, 2025

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