

# Rebecca L. Martinez

Undergraduate Researcher | Student Assistant

Environmental Studies Program | University of California, Santa Barbara  
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## Education

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

## Awards and Honors

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Fall Birnam Wood Veterans Scholarship — \$3,000	2025
Gene & Susan Lucas Undergraduate Research Fund — \$500	2025
Crankstart Transfer Scholarship — \$5,000	2025
2025 UCSB Edison STEM Conference Research Scholarship — \$2000	2025
UCNRS Field Science Fellowship — \$5,000 + \$1,000 project stipend	2025
Bren Environmental Studies Fellows Program — \$600	2025
Gene & Susan Lucas Undergraduate Research Fund — \$1,000	2025
Wenger Scholarship, UCSB Environmental Studies — \$2,000	2025
UCSB Promise Scholarship — \$60,000 total over 2 years	2024
PEO Foundation Scholarship — \$1,250	2024
UCSB MESA M-STP Program Scholarship — \$500	2024
Capt. G. Allan Hancock Scholarship — \$3,500	2024
Allan Hancock College MESA Scholarship — \$500	2023
Brander Vineyard Scholarship — \$3,000	2023
Brander Vineyard Scholarship — \$1,000	2022
Joan Semelsberger-Roth Scholarship — \$2,000	2022
Joan Semelsberger-Roth Scholarship — \$1,000	2021
Alpha Gamma Sigma Kathleen D. Loly Academic Award — \$800	2021
Alpha Gamma Sigma Aquarius Chapter Leadership Award	2021
Joyce Dendo Veteran Scholarship — \$500	2021
Virginia B. Martinez Memorial Scholarship — \$500	2021

## Research Experience

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<b>Undergraduate Researcher</b> , UC Santa Barbara	Jan 2025–Present
<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.	
<b>Research Assistant</b> , UC Santa Barbara	Mar 2025–Present
<i>Soil Carbon Stabilization Study</i> Assisted graduate research Heath Goertzen with pit digging, bulk density sampling, and soil auger collection at UCNRS Sedgwick Reserve. Performed USDA soil profile descriptions and applied safe sampling protocols.	
<b>Student Assistant</b> , UCSB Office of Education Partnerships	Oct 2024–Present
Collect data, maintain field sites, repair equipment, updated protocols, and supported project logistics to improve research operations.	
<b>Participant</b> , UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program	Jun 2023-Aug 2023

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.

## Teaching and Mentorship

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<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , UCSB MESA Successful Transition Program (M-STP)	Sep 2025–Sep 2025
Supported a 3-week virtual chemistry workshop for incoming and transfer STEM students. Assisted with Zoom lectures, evaluated assignments, and mentored students to support their transition to UCSB.	
<b>Discussion Leader</b> , UCSB–Smithsonian ERES Program	Jun-Sep 2024, 2025
Assisted undergraduate instruction of RStudio/PositCloud for data manipulation and visualization, mentored students during field workshops at Santa Cruz Island Reserve; trained students on camera traps, Audiometers, and GPS.	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Allan Hancock College Human Anatomy Open Lab	Aug 2023–Jun 2024
Facilitated Friday lab sessions, including setup and breakdown; developed visual study guides, led office hours, and supported human cadaver lab activities.	
<b>Tutor</b> , Academic Resource Center & STEM Center, Allan Hancock College	Aug 2019–Jun 2024
One-on-one, drop-in, and group sessions. Subjects tutored: anatomy, algebra, botany, introductory biology, calculus 1 & 2, cellular biology, introductory & general chemistry, microbiology, and physiology.	
<b>Lead Tutor</b> ; trained new tutors, led workshops on study skills and time management, and supported onboarding of staff and faculty.	Aug 2020– Jun 2024
<b>Embedded Tutor</b> ; Hosted review sessions and office hours, helped with grading, and developed study materials for life and physical science courses	Jan 2020– Jun 2024

## Leadership and Service

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<b>Student Representative</b> , UC Systemwide Surveys Student Advisory Group	Sep 2025–Present
Gained insight into the full survey process, collaborated on strategies to increase student participation, and provided feedback on survey initiatives	
<b>Outreach Volunteer</b> , UCSB Veteran Support Center	Jan 2024–Present
Organized networking events to connect veteran students and women veterans within UCSB's communities.	
<b>Science Outreach Volunteer</b> , Allan Hancock College Life & Physical Sciences Department	Jan 2022–Jun 2024
Helped design and facilitate hands-on science activities for local K–12 students; created educational materials and coordinated event logistics.	
<b>Student Representative</b> , Allan Hancock College	Aug 2021–Jun 2023
Served as a student representative for faculty and staff hiring committees and Title V Committee to advocate for student needs.	
<b>Permanent Member</b> , Alpha Gamma Sigma Aquarius Honor Society, Allan Hancock College	Aug 2019–Present
<b>Vice President</b> ; Organized meetings, managed member eligibility and service records, and developed an online system to track service points.	Jan 2020–Jun 2021
<b>Community Service Chair</b> ; Led service projects and fundraisers, organized initiatives including coat and sock drives, book and toy drives, and community clean-up events	Aug 2022–Jun 2023
<b>Key Volunteer</b> , Santa Barbara County Toys for Tots	Nov 2018–Present
Coordinated donation efforts and distributed toys to children during holiday seasons.	
<b>United States Marine Corps</b>	Jun 2005–Oct 2010
Developed strong discipline, adaptability, and problem-solving under high-pressure conditions.	

## Presentations

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

## Programs and Affiliations

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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
PEO Foundation	2024–Present
UCSB Student Veterans Association (SVA)	2024–Present
UCSB–Smithsonian Scholars Program	2023–Present
Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Assistance (ACTLA)	2020–Present
Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society	2019–Present
Lompoc Veteran Advisory Committee (LVAC)	2018–Present

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[https://rebeccalmartinez.github.io/personal\\_website/](https://rebeccalmartinez.github.io/personal_website/)