

Rebecca L. Martinez

Undergraduate Researcher | Student Assistant

Environmental Studies Program | University of California, Santa Barbara
rebecca.martinez@ucsb.edu | martinez.rl@hotmail.com

Education

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

Awards and Honors

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

Undergraduate Researcher , 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.	
Research Assistant , UC Davis Soil Carbon Project	Mar 2025–Present
<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.	
Student Assistant , 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.	
Participant , 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

Teaching Assistant , 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.	
Discussion Leader , 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.	
Teaching Assistant , 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.	
Tutor , 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.	
Lead Tutor ; trained new tutors, led workshops on study skills and time management, and supported onboarding of staff and faculty.	Aug 2020– Jun 2024
Embedded Tutor ; 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

Student Representative , 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	
Outreach Volunteer , UCSB Veteran Support Center	Jan 2024–Present
Organized networking events to connect veteran students and women veterans within UCSB's communities.	
Science Outreach Volunteer , 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.	
Student Representative , 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.	
Permanent Member , Alpha Gamma Sigma Aquarius Honor Society, Allan Hancock College	Aug 2019–Present
Vice President ; Organized meetings, managed member eligibility and service records, and developed an online system to track service points.	Jan 2020–Jun 2021
Community Service Chair ; 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
Key Volunteer , Santa Barbara County Toys for Tots	Nov 2018–Present
Coordinated donation efforts and distributed toys to children during holiday seasons.	
United States Marine Corps	Jun 2005–Oct 2010
Developed strong discipline, adaptability, and problem-solving under high-pressure conditions.	

Presentations

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, & 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 & 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 & 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

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
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: November 25, 2025

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