

Aidan Robertson

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

8/2021–6/2025 University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)
B.A. Environmental Studies; B.A. Geography, GPA 3.80

FIELD EXPERIENCE

6/2024–present **Restoration Ecology Student Worker, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, UCSB**
Conducted annual vegetation surveys along 70m transect lines using 1m² quadrats in coastal sage scrub, coastal sand dune, and vernal pool plant communities. Prepared 0.35 acre site covered in invasive annual grasses for prescribed burn by creating a fuel break along the perimeter, cutting and transporting added woody fuel, taking initial vegetation data, and creating sensors to measure maximum temperature of fire. Used field maps and GNSS receiver to accurately map treatment site. Collected, processed, weighed, and counted seeds of native wildflowers, forbs, and shrubs, inputting data into Cheadle Center's seed database.

1/2024–6/2024 **Intern, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, UCSB**
Worked with Campus Lagoon Steward and 5 other interns to manage 3 restoration sites, controlling and removing invasive plant species, and transplanting native plants. Assisted with ecological assessment and monitoring through data collection and hypothesis testing.

COURSEWORK & PROJECTS

7/2024–6/2025
(expected) **Environmental Studies Senior Thesis, UCSB**
Working on ongoing research project focusing on coastal sage scrub restoration techniques with the end goal of a 60-page thesis, to be completed in June 2024. Completed detailed literature review of relevant topics and designed 2 studies. Conducting field experiments on 12 plots spanning 1.5 acres with treatments of prescribed fire, grass-specific herbicide, thatch-removal, and 2 wildflower seeding rates. Took initial vegetation data using 1m² quadrats, with plans to follow up in spring. Subjecting 2 non-native forb species' seeds to lab and greenhouse experiments, treating seeds with convective heat at 2 temperatures for 5 exposure times to determine effect of fire in sterilizing seeds. Using R to clean, processes, visualize, and analyze data.

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| 8/2024–3/2025 | <p>Geographic Information Systems & Science Course Series, UCSB</p> <p>Expected to complete 10 cumulative weeks of coursework centered on foundational knowledge on geographic information systems and ArcGIS Pro by March 2025. Coursework includes weekly labs focusing on different aspects of GIS processes and analysis, and analyzing California wildfire causes and perimeters across time.</p> |
| 9/2024–12/2024 | <p>Independent Research Group Project, Field Studies of California's Coast, UCSB</p> <p>Completed in depth literature review of the function and processes of Carpinteria Salt Marsh UC Natural Reserve (CSMR). Analyzed change in salt marsh cover in California between 1850s and now, referencing historic t-sheets. Worked with 2 classmates working on their own projects related to CSMR on a 30-minute presentation detailing research and results.</p> |
| 4/2024–6/2024 | <p>Restoration Master Plan, Foundations of Ecosystem Restoration, UCSB</p> <p>Worked with a 4-person group to create a 30-page proposal for the restoration of Lake Los Carneros, a 94 acre public park in Goleta, California. Conducted research for site background, assessed the site through observation and vegetation monitoring, outlined restoration actions, and created a work plan and budget to restore a 22 acre Californian perennial grassland to the project site.</p> |
| 4/2024–6/2024 | <p>Independent Data Collection, Statistics for Environmental Science, UCSB</p> <p>Used Excel, R, and Quarto documents to collect and analyze usage patterns of UCSB's Student Resource Building front desk. Created bar charts detailing usage across days of the week, times of day, and week to week. Published a personal website in Quarto, using GitHub, detailing results along with personal information.</p> |
| 1/2024–3/2024 | <p>Fishery Management Project, Aquatic Food and Resource Management, UCSB</p> <p>Researched past and current problems with the Chesapeake Bay blue crab fishery, found solutions, and current barriers to those solutions. Worked with 4 group members to create a 7-minute video exploring the history and management of the blue crab fishery.</p> |
| 9/2023–12/2023 | <p>Public Testimony, America's Public Lands and Waters - Law and Policy, UCSB</p> <p>Worked with a classmate to create a 16-page written mock testimony to Congress, exploring and addressing the issue of overtourism in the National Parks. Gave oral testimony and addressed questions from professor and classmates.</p> |

AWARDS

4/2022–Present Dean's Honors List, College of Letters and Science

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

9/2022–Present Student Supervisor of Student Resource Building Front Desk Staff

1/2022–6/2023 Vice President of Recognition of National Residence Hall Honorary

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Completed Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program
- Technical Skills: plant identification, invasive species removal, study design, vegetation monitoring and data collection, native seed processing
- Computer Skills: basic knowledge of ArcGIS Pro, R, GitHub, and Excel