

Samuel McCarty

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First-year PhD student in Astronomy & Astrophysics at the
Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian

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Education	Harvard University Ph.D., Astronomy & Astrophysics	Cambridge, MA 09/2025 – Present
	University of Washington B.S. <i>magna cum laude</i> with honors in Physics and Astronomy Cumulative GPA: 3.96/4.0, Physics: 3.98, Astronomy: 3.96	Seattle, WA 06/2025
Publications	McCarty, S., & Connor, L. (2025). Strong gravitational lensing with upcoming wide-field radio surveys. MNRAS.	
Research	Graduate Researcher, Harvard Project: The CGM with local universe FRBs, Advisor: Dr. Liam Connor	09/2025 – Present
	Graduate Researcher, Harvard Project: JWST NIRSpec development, Advisor: Dr. Daniel Eisenstein	09/2025 – Present
	Caltech Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, CIT Project: Radio Strong Lensing, Advisor: Dr. Liam Connor	03/2024 – 08/2025
	Undergraduate Researcher, University of Washington Project: Simulations of the IGM, Advisor: Dr. Matthew McQuinn	05/2023 – 06/2025
	Undergraduate Researcher, University of Washington Project: ML biosignature detection, Advisor: Dr. Victoria Meadows	01/2025 – 08/2025
	Undergraduate Researcher, University of Washington Project: Quasar absorption spectroscopy, Advisor: Dr. Jessica Werk	06/2023 – 06/2025
	Undergraduate Researcher, University of Washington Project: UW Nanopore Lab, Advisor: Dr. Jens Gundlach	03/2023 – 04/2024
Posters & Presentations	Strong lensing with upcoming wide-field radio surveys – ASTRO 3D Strong Lensing in the Next Decade workshop, Harvard CfA Towards a Statistical Framework for HWO Biosignature Assessment – HWO2025 conference, Johns Hopkins Structure of Cosmic Sheets and Filaments – Mary Gates Research Symposium, University of Washington	2025 2025 2024

Service	Undergrad Mentorship Program Leader (UW Physics)	2024 – 2025
	UW Mobile Planetarium Volunteer	2022 – 2025
	<i>Exploring Strong Gravitational Lensing</i>	04/24/2024
	~45-minute public outreach talk for Astronomy on Tap Seattle. Video here.	
	Outreach Coordinator (UW Astro)	2022 – 2023
	Phi Delta Theta Executive Social Chair	2023 – 2024
Honors & Achievements	<i>Top Graduating Senior</i> (UW Physics)	2025
	<i>Departmental honors in both Physics and Astronomy</i> (UW)	2025
	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> (UW)	2025
	<i>Caltech Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship</i>	2024
	<i>Hans G. Dehmelt Scholarship</i> (UW Physics)	2024
	<i>Mary Gates Research Scholarship</i> (UW)	2024
	<i>Baer Prize</i> (UW Astro)	2024
	<i>Greek Man of the Year</i> (UW)	2023
	93rd percentile Physics GRE (970/990)	
	Dean's List every quarter in undergrad	
	Perfect score on the ACT	
Observing Experience	Very Large Array, 16 hours (ID:26A-289, PI: McCarty)	2026
	Keck LRIS	11/20/25
	Local Volume Mapper, Las Campanas Observatory	11/14/24 - 02/01/25
	Hale 200 Inch Telescope, Palomar Observatory	08/14/2024
	ARCSAT 0.5m Telescope, Apache Point Observatory	04/22-23/2024