



Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 cohort!

HIRA AHMED



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Division of Health Sciences, School of Public Health

Major: Public Health



Academic Bio

Hira Ahmed is a Las Vegas local pursuing a bachelor's degree in public health. She hopes to continue to pursue the research and statistical side of public health to help dismantle disparities in health policy and help serve minority communities within Las Vegas and around the US.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Hira wants to pursue a graduate degree in data science and public policy. She hopes to use her degree to become an expert in health policy and continue to research and write about pertinent health policy issues, as well as use data research to deconstruct disparities in public healthcare.

SHAINNA ALIPON



Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Urban Affairs

Major: Journalism and Media studies, concentration in Journalism

Minor: Physics



Academic Bio

Shainna is an aspiring journalist. She switched to journalism from physics after she realized she was better at writing about science than doing the science. She is currently the news editor at the Scarlet & Gray Free Press and interns with UNLV-TV. Her pride and joy is Nightsky Newscast, a weekly Youtube series about astronomy news that she does for the Dale Etheridge Planetarium at CSN.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Shainna hopes to get accepted at a graduate journalism program in Belgium. She wants to move there someday and hopes getting a masters there will make it easier for her to find employment in the European journalism field.

BRITTANY ALLEN



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Sociology



Academic Bio

Brittany is a Los Angeles native, who traded in the beach scene for desert mountain views. A non-traditional student, who works full time and is a mother to an adventurous toddler. Taking some time to focus on family and career, Brittany has decided to return to complete her BA in Sociology. Her passion for research and education was reignited while completing her second AA at CSN.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Brittany is planning on pursuing a Doctorate in Sociology. As a child of educators, she has an interest in teaching opportunities at the postsecondary level, as well as academic research roles. Wherever Brittany lands, she hopes to make a permanent footprint in an ever-changing world.

DAYLE MARC ATEN



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Division of Health Sciences

Major: Kinesiology



Academic Bio



Dayle Marc Aten, called Marc, was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i. He enjoys reading Scriptures and autobiographies. He chose his major to understand the foundation of good health, fitness, and performance. His North Star question was "what makes a great athlete?"



What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Dayle Marc is undecided on a single program. He has interests in the health-related science like, kinesiology, nutrition, and neuroscience. He also has interests in law, justice, morals, and ethics. He plans to use his time in the Grad Rebel Advantage to learn more about graduate school.



MACKENZIE BAACK



Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Education

Major: Secondary Education

Academic Bio

Mackenzie is a first-generation college student pursuing a B.S. in Secondary Education and minors in Mathematics and Computer Science. She is a member of member of Alpha Gamma Delta and Girls Who Code. She works on-campus in OIT. She chose Secondary Education because she has always enjoyed helping others.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mackenzie plans on pursuing a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction for the Career, Technical & Postsecondary Education Professional Studies subplan. She hopes to encourage more young women to pursue STEM and believes this program will teach her ways to diversify her curriculum to promote more diversity in STEM.

Amaya Bolling- McDevitt Hernandez



Class Standing: 5th year

**Department: Psychology & Human
Services**

Major: Psychology

Minor: Human Services



Academic Bio

Amaya is a local Las Vegas and a 5th-year UNLV student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a Minor in Human Services. She is an active member of Psi Chi and is a Research Assistant for the Social Development Lab on campus.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Amaya plans to pursue multiple graduate programs in the San Diego area for Clinical Science and Marriage and Family Therapy and UNLV's own Marriage and Family Therapy program. She has found her devotion for making a difference utilizing systems theory within marriages, families, and individuals who need it.

HALEY CABIAS

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Lee Business School

Major: Marketing



Academic Bio

A business marketing major, Haley Cabias is passionate about entrepreneurship and leadership. She enjoys marketing for its blend of creativity and business fundamentals. On campus, Haley has been involved with CSUN, Greek Life, and the Lee Business School. Internships have allowed her to gain experience in consulting and sales.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Fascinated by emerging technologies, Haley plans to pursue a Masters in Information Systems. She intends to launch a startup, so she is focused on building a well-rounded skillset to equip herself with the necessary tools to become a successful entrepreneur.

Andres Enrique Carrasco



Class Standing: Senior

**Department: Lee Business School
(BSBA)**

Major: Marketing



Academic Bio

Andres Carrasco is a Mexican-American community leader. He is currently a first generation college senior studying Marketing with a minor focus in Global Entrepreneurship and Commercial Real Estate. He serves as the Vice President of the American Marketing Association and has been designated as a Lee Scholar. He has a passion for people, human behavior, innovation, and creativity which made Marketing a perfect fit for him!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

He hopes to take part in the Executive MBA seeing that it is an exceptional program that prepares a person to lead with confidence. Allowing him to better his experience in order to become the best business executive and entrepreneur he could possibly be.

MARDAE JAZELLE CASTRO

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Education

Major: Human Services



Academic Bio

First-generation college student and single mother to a 5-year-old son named Azari, Mardae is a non-traditional student pursuing a bachelors in Human Services with minors in Addictions Treatment and Family Studies while staying involved as a member of UNLV's Filipino-American Student Association as well as UNLV's Chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mardae plans on pursuing the trauma-informed track of the Master of Social Work program at UNLV and start her own therapy practice. During her journey to better mental health, she noticed a lack of representation from her cultural background and decided she would become the change she wanted to see.

LUIS CHAVEZ



Class Standing: Junior

Department: Engineering

Major: Computer Science

Academic Bio

Luis is a first-generation college student, veteran, and a Las Vegas local. As a non-traditional student, Luis currently works for the State of Nevada's Investigations and Recover unit. He enjoys challenging himself and solving problems, which is why he chose to major in Computer Science.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Due to the flexibility and constantly evolving nature of technology, Luis is interested in pursuing a Master of Computer Science in software engineering. Computer Science can help people in their daily lives with the only limiting factor being a person's imagination.

IVY MANDY CHEN



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Education

**Major: Secondary Education
Mathematics**



Academic Bio

Born in Chicago, moved to Vegas 5+ years ago. Second generation undergraduate at UNLV, majoring in secondary education mathematics. Enjoys playing basketball and shopping. This major was chosen due to family and past teacher influences. They made school enjoyable and inspired the goal to give students good experiences as well.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The Teacher Leadership master's program is the intended goal. This program is an excellent opportunity and challenge to reach maximum potential within the field of education. Looking forward to mentoring fellow pre-service teachers and preparing them to become effective and efficient teachers.

NATALIE CHISAM

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Psychology

**Major: Psychology and
Neuroscience**



Academic Bio

Natalie was born in South Carolina but has resided in Las Vegas since 2015. She is a first generation Vietnamese American college student that focuses on substance use and mental disorders. She is currently in the STAR clinic lab and the Human Memory Lab. She is the co-founder and Vice president of Citrus For Smiles, an organization that promotes university community and wellbeing. She found interest in psychology when she discovered multiple family members living with mental health issues.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Natalie plans to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology in hopes of seeing and treating patients. She believes that mental health should be considered a primary concern and implemented in regular checkups.

ADDISON COBB



Class Standing: JUNIOR
Department: MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

Major: MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

Academic Bio

Addison Cobb is a born and raised Nevadan who has always had a fascination with machinery and vehicles. These fascinations blossomed into pursuing mechanical engineering and research as a career. He is also a member of UNLV Formula Racing, Society of Physics Students, and the Da Kine Laboratory.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Addison Cobb plans to pursue a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering. A M.S. of ME will allow him to delve deeper into engineering concepts so that he can dedicate his skills and talent to tackling some of the complicated research and design problems we face today.

SAMANTHA CRUZ



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

Major: Kinesiology



Academic Bio

Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Samantha moved to Las Vegas 3 years ago. As an active member of HOSA and Phi Sigma Theta Honor Society, she demonstrates her commitment to learning and service. Samantha's fascination with the complexities of anatomy and physiology pushed her towards a major in Kinesiology.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After completing her undergraduate studies in Kinesiology, Samantha plans on pursuing a M.S. degree. Her ultimate dream is to attain a Ph.D. in the field, an accomplishment she believes will prepare her with the expertise needed to inspire future generations as an anatomy professor.

LEIA DE LOS SANTOS

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Health Sciences

Major: Public Health



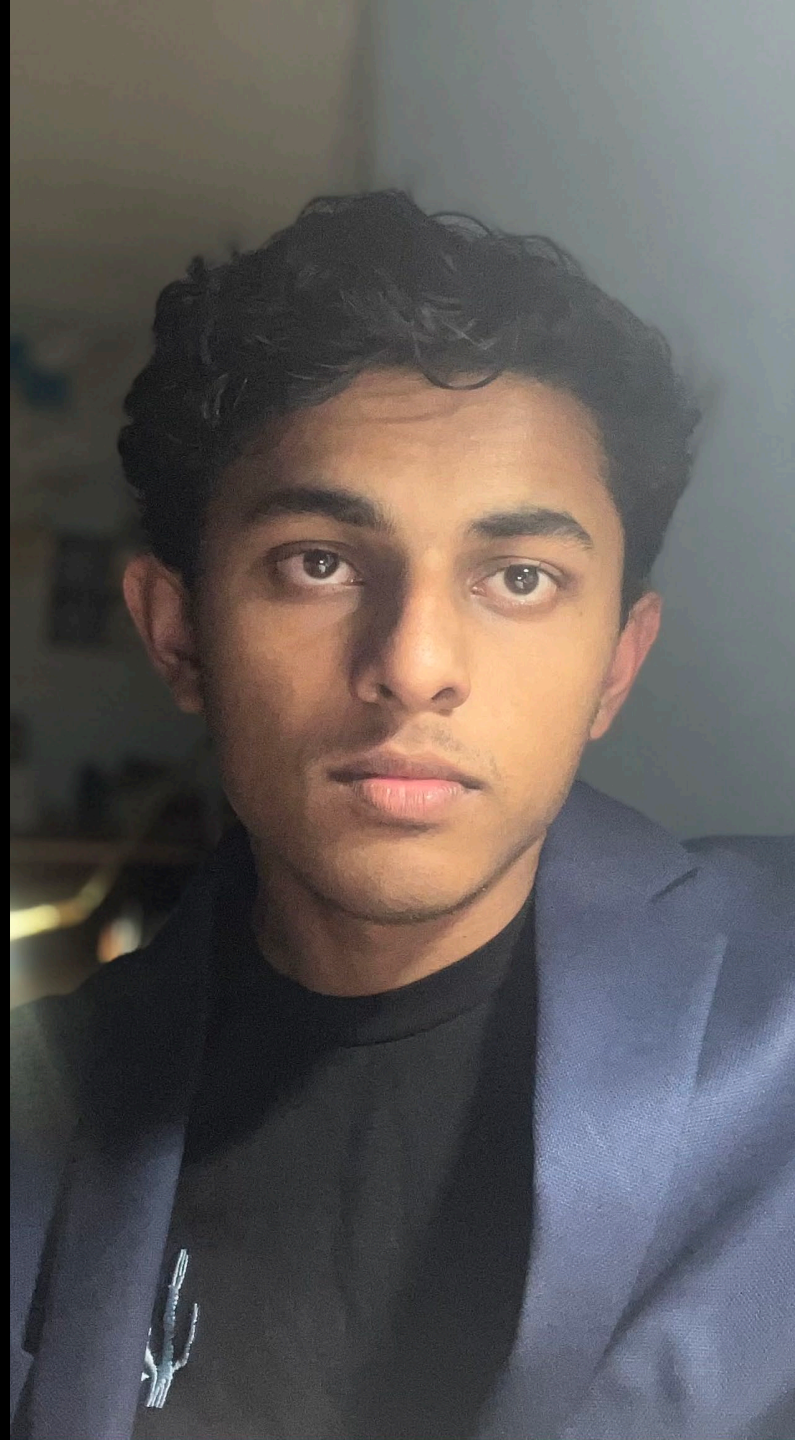
Academic Bio

Leia is a first generation undergraduate student, born and raised in Northern California. She has participated in several on-campus extracurricular activities including executive board positions for the UNLV 'Ewalu Club and the UNLV Public Health Student Association. Leia decided to pursue Public Health for its impact on communities and underserved populations.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Leia has chosen to pursue a Master's in Public Health to further her education in the field. In addition to her undergraduate studies, Leia has taken interest in research and statistics. She hopes that the graduate program will aid in strengthening her skills as a student and public health worker.

ALLISTER DIAS



Class Standing: Junior

Department: Lee Business School

Major: Economics

Academic Bio

Allister Dias is a third-year undergraduate Economics major with a double minor in Global Entrepreneurship Experience (GEE) and Brookings Public Policy. An avid lover of investigative writing, he serves as the Editor-in-Chief of UNLV's student newspaper, Scarlet & Gray Free Press. On top of journalism, he enjoys leadership opportunities, serving as the President of the UNLV Honors College Student Council, Faculty Assistant for the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), and CEO of AI-startup company YouChef. Outside of academia, he enjoys long-distance running, film photography, and reading. Following undergrad, he hopes to attain his masters and Ph.D. in Economics.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

After undergraduate, Allister plans on attaining his masters and Ph.D. in Economics, with a minor study into public policy. He hopes that it will inspire researchers to be more ambitious in planning policy and aid entrepreneurs in developing new technologies.

Kyle Dwyer



Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Education

Major: Secondary Education

Minor: English



Academic Bio

Kyle is a Las Vegas native hoping to become a second-generation UNLV College of Education graduate. He works at a non-profit that delivers science and outdoor-related curriculum to local students. Kyle hopes to contribute to his community and is excited to pursue a meaningful career in Education.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Kyle plans to pursue a Master of Arts degree in English, specifically focusing on Literature. Kyle hopes the additional study in Literature will broaden his understanding of English as a content area and improve the knowledge he can share with his future students.