



Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees



Congratulations to the 2023-2024 cohort!

ETELVINA GUADALUPE ESQUIVEL



Class Standing: Senior

**Department: School of
Integrated Health
Sciences and College of
Liberal Arts**



Academic Bio

● Etelvina is a first generation college student and born here in Las Vegas. She's vice president of the Pre-Occupational Therapy Society, and a member of four other clubs. Etelvina works at UNLV ASPIRE and the Multicultural Program. She chose her majors, Kinesiology and Psychology, to understand both body and mind.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

● Etelvina plans on pursuing a doctorate degree in occupational therapy due to her desire to help individuals. This has been further propelled by shadowing occupational therapists in different settings. Additionally, she has volunteered for almost two years at her local rehabilitation hospital, and enjoys working with the staff and patients.

DAVID J GALICH



Class Standing: Senior

Department: COLA

Major: Psychology



Academic Bio

David Galich transferred into UNLV from UCR. He has received his associates of art and science from Riverside Community College. First year of transfer he was with COLA studying Anthropology and Philosophy but due to being out of the loop from returning after 20+ years he decided to change his major to Psychology. He is interested in continuing his education and hope the Grad Academy will facilitate that.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

David plans to continue his education within the higher education system by obtaining his PhD in clinical psychology @UNLV. David states that his purpose in gaining his PhD is to focus on the progression of psychological and philosophical patterns that pervade society.

EVELYN GAMEZ FLORES



Class Standing: Junior

Department: Education

**Major: Secondary Education -
English**



Academic Bio

Evelyn is a local Las Vegas who moved from California when she was young. She chose her major because she was inspired by her teachers and how they make an impact on the world. Evelyn knows the value of education and the importance of working hard to be her best self.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The graduate program that Evelyn plans to pursue is either Educational Psychology or a program involving education or English. The reason is because she is very passionate about these topics. However, she wants to learn more about the different graduate programs and what is best for her and her future.

MIRANDA GARCIA

Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Education

**Major: Secondary Education-
With a Minor in English**



Academic Bio

A first-generation college student, Miranda relocated from Dinuba, California, to Las Vegas. A Fellow of The Nevada Institute Education Preparation Program (NITEP), she's driven by K-12 teachers who helped her through academic challenges, motivating her to pursue education and aiming to assist students facing similar struggles.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Miranda aspires to enroll in the Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education graduate program UNLV's College of Education offers. While maintaining openness to similar programs at alternate Universities, she remains committed to enhancing her knowledge and skills to become an impactful and effective educator.

LATIJANA GERMANY



Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Education

Major: Elementary Education



Academic Bio

LaTijana is a local Las Vegan that moved here from Los Angeles, California. She is a first-generation college student. She pursued a career in education because she felt like education was the one entity that could never be taken from anyone.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

LaTijana plans on pursuing her Doctorate in Education to design curriculums for schools to keep students motivated to learn, allowing them to retain the knowledge brought forth. She also plans on opening her own Head Start academy to give young students a great foundation to begin their education careers.

SHANKARA SHAARON LESHAY GETCHONIS



Class Standing: Senior

**Department: College of Education
- Department of Early Childhood,
Multilingual, and Special
Education.**

Major: Special Education



Academic Bio

Originally from California, Shankara has called Vegas home for the past 9 years. They are a non-traditional, first-generation college student, whose jobs include being a mentor, tutor, and teacher's assistant. Pursuing a BS in Special Education, Shankara is passionate about advocacy, nurturing youth, and eradicating carceral/harmful schooling policies and practices.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Shankara plans to pursue their Masters of Education in Special Education, with a focus area of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. From there, Shankara plans on obtaining a dual Doctor of Philosophy degree in Special Education and Juris Doctor.

SUSAN GLEED



Class Standing: Senior

Department: COLA

Major: Psychology



Academic Bio

Susan grew up in a small town in Hawaii and moved to Las Vegas with her family five years ago. Having graduated from Hawaii Preparatory Academy with high honors and awards in leadership, scholarship, and athletic achievement, she always knew she would complete higher education. After a pause in her education to raise children, she is now completing her B.A. in Psychology at UNLV. Susan is a first-generation female of her family to graduate college and pursue a post-graduate degree. She has always been fascinated by psychology and the study of the brain and chose the psychology degree because of her strong research and writing skills. Returning to school as a non-traditional student has been rewarding and she feels her life experiences of the past 20 years have enhanced her academic preparedness and success.

PhD - Psychological and Brain Sciences

I will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Psychological and Brain Sciences with an emphasis in neuropsychology. I believe we are closer than ever to discovering power of the connection between mental health and physiological health. It is my desire to provide the brain research needed to drive our understanding of this connection.

BRIANNE-MARIE GOODMAN



Class Standing: Senior

**Department: College Of Liberal
Arts/Anthropology Arts**

Major: Anthropology



Academic Bio

Brianne moved from Indiana to Las Vegas for school in 2019 and throughout her time here at UNLV she has been a part of a few organizations. She has been a part of the National Residency Hall Honorary (NRHH) and Resident Hall Association (RHA). This year she has now joined the Anthropology Society at UNLV as the Treasurer.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Brianne is planning to pursue a master's and Doctorate degree in Anthropology with a focus in the subfield of Archaeology. She has always been interested in learning of the past and how people lived so by pursuing a degree in Anthropology she gets to have a career doing what she has always loved.

SKYLER GURTNER



Class Standing: Junior

Department: Life Sciences

Major: Biological Sciences – Ecology and Evolution



Academic Bio

Skyler is from Las Vegas. She transferred, so this will be her first semester at UNLV! She is a first-generation college student. Currently she is helping in Dr. van Breukelens research lab. She chose her major because she enjoys the coursework and its preparation for her future goals. Skyler also has her PADI open water scuba diving certification and is working on furthering her diver education as well.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Skyler plans on pursuing a masters in marine biology and then continuing onto a PhD program. She is passionate about conservation ecology and wants to discover new ways to help our ocean life.

LILLY HAGOS

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Neuroscience

Major: Biology



Academic Bio

I was born and raised here in Las Vegas, Nevada, and have always had a keen interest in the medical field. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, public health became more important to me than ever. I became inspired to create the on-campus club, UNLV Medical Brigades. Having already majored in biology, I decided to add a neuroscience minor to learn more about the neurodegenerative effects that arise from public health issues.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

A neuroscience or public health graduate program would be ideal to pursue as one leads into aspects of the other.

MYKALA HUFFMAN



Class Standing: Junior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology

Minor: Neuroscience

Academic Bio

Mykala was born and raised in Mississippi. She moved to Las Vegas in 2023 to pursue her education at UNLV as a first-generation college student. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and many other organizations. Mykala chose psychology because she wants to make a difference in people's lives.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Mykala plans on pursuing the Ph.D program in Clinical Psychology to become a Clinical Psychologist and eventually own her own practice. Her goal is to encourage people to prioritize their mental health and help promote the education of people's well-being

Raquel Jackson



Class Standing: Senior

**Department: Civil and
Environmental Engineering and
Construction**

**Major: Civil & Environmental
Engineering**



Academic Bio

I'm a Las Vegas local with a passion for the environment and solving problems. I like to paint on my free time. Engineering was the major for me since I want to have a career that has applications that impact both environment and public welfare for the better.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Furthering education by pursuing the Master's program in Civil & Environmental Engineering would help future endeavors towards becoming an Environmental Engineer.

Zachary Johnigan



Class Standing: Senior

Department: Urban affairs

Major: Communication Studies



Academic Bio

Zachary is attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) where he studies Communication and Public Policy. Before attending UNLV, he graduated from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) where he studied World Languages. Additionally, in his final year at CSN, he served as the student body president. He chose Communication as a major to help him advocate for his community more efficiently.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

He plans to work in government after obtaining his M.A. Public Policy and Ph.D. in Government. He believes that this type of education will be beneficial for teaching the aspects of good policy making and governmental system operation.

JOEL LOPEZ



Class Standing: Senior

Department: College of Liberal Arts

Major: Psychology & CRJ



Academic Bio

Joel Lopez was born in Ecuador and moved to Las Vegas 11 years ago. Joel has been very involved in the College of Liberal Arts for a while now, being part of the peer mentor program and a member of the student advisory council it has allowed Joel to seek and try out many opportunities. Joel chose this major because they have always been interested in how people think and act and why, wanting to learn more about it and how it works is fascinating to Joel.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan to pursue a degree in either forensic Psychology or a master in business marketing for the sole purpose, I am torn between these two still but for the most part this is what I know I want to pursue and why I am particularly interested in Grad Rebel to learn more.