



Samantha (Sam) Acuña

UT Austin, School of Law

Law Clerk, Office of General Counsel

Home Group: 1

Hi, everyone! My name is Samantha (feel free to call me Sam), & I am so happy to be learning from the OGC team this summer! I am excited to learn about the areas of law practiced by the team & how OGC directly supports the UT System. My goal is to become familiar with the higher education setting.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I am a painter! I really like art and enjoy painting, coloring, designing, and more. In addition, I collect plants and enjoy caring for them.



Micaela (Mica) Alvarado

UT Austin

Research & Reporting Undergraduate Intern, Office of Institutional Research & Analysis

Home Group: 3

I am a third-year student studying Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, focusing on audiology. My summer goals include gaining hands-on experience in professional settings, broadening my skillset, and applying my previous experience. My goal after graduation is to attend an audiology program.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I love hiking and I'll be getting a puppy this summer to go on hikes with me! I also started a new hobby of making candles.



Isabella Anzaldúa

UT San Antonio

Academic Affairs Intern - Policy, Academic Affairs

Home Group: 1

I am a proud San Antonio Native and a proud 2019 graduate of Arizona State University. I am currently obtaining my Masters of Higher Education from UTSA and will be graduating this August! My summer goals include creating cohesive team relationships and broadening my perspective of higher education.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Traveling, strength training, politics and current events, volunteering for Delta Gamma's alumnae chapter, and following ASU sports!



Joshua (Josh) Anzaldúa

UT San Antonio

**Project Coordinator Intern - Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC),
Office of Health Affairs**

Home Group: 2

I am currently pursuing a terminal degree in Educational Leadership. I hope to one day become a university president. I'm looking forward to the opportunities to grow as a leader and scholar and learn alongside a group of passionate individuals in a line of work I wholeheartedly believe in.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I am a big foodie! I love food photography and posting my favorite food photos on my foodie Instagram and Facebook pages.



Diana Cervantes

UT Austin

Academic Affairs Intern – ElevateTXEd, Office of Academic Affairs

Home Group: 2

I am a proud Oregonian and a first-generation college student. I am pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy at The University of Texas at Austin where I am also a Graduate Research Assistant for Project MALES. My research is focused on the experiences of Latinx community college students.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I enjoy hiking and visiting art museums. I like to explore new cities. I love going to concerts.



Melissa Chan

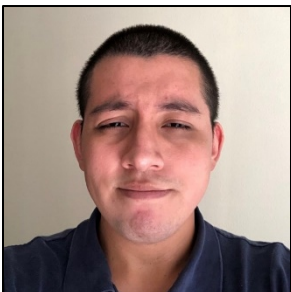
UT Health San Antonio

Project Coordinator Intern - Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB), Office of Health Affairs

Home Group: 2

I am a post-graduate student completing a pediatric nurse practitioner program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. My research interests include health disparities and inequities primarily centered on race/ethnicity as it intersects with maternal and child health.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Training for triathlons (the super fluffy ones).



Jose Granados

UT Austin

Information Security Intern, Information Security Office

Home Group: 3

I'm currently a 4th year student pursuing electrical/software engineering. I'm very passionate about helping other first-generation students guide themselves through college, as well as, playing chess or practicing my American Sign Language.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I like practice my chess skills, as well as learn new languages.



Jorge (George) Gutierrez-Arevalo

UT El Paso

Information Security Intern, Information Security Office

Home Group: 4

My name is Jorge Gutierrez. I am a student at UTEP, and my degrees will be in Computer Science and Mathematics. I read on Mathematics and Mathematical Physics and I am also a giant music nerd. I also really like Sci-Fi and I'm trying to finish reading Dune. I'd love to be a Math professor one day.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Mathematics, composing/recording/producing/mixing/engineering my own music, reading a lot of physics Wikipedia articles that I hardly understand.



Sumaiya Hassan

UT Tyler

Data Visualization & Communication Intern, Office of Institutional Research & Analysis

Home Group: 4

I will be graduating from UT-Austin in 2024. I will be deepening my understanding of technological solutions for business problems in my studies. My goal is to create more partnerships and programs with those who want to open doors for others especially through educational opportunities.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I enjoy spending time outdoors, taking road trips, reading, cooking and spending time with my family and friends.



Samer Hijjazi

UT Arlington

Talent & Innovation Associate, Office of Talent & Innovation

Home Group: 1

Hi there! I'm a May 2021 graduate majoring in Business Analytics. Some of my interests lie within the field of analytics and technology, as well as career development. My current career goal is to start working as a data analyst to become a data scientist in the future!

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Watching soccer and football (I'm a huge Atletico Madrid fan), meeting new people and catching up with friends, learning new programs and software.



Jonathan Hinojos

UT El Paso

Communications Intern, Information Security Office

Home Group: 5

I am currently attending the University of Texas at El Paso in pursuit of a bachelors degree in organizational and corporate communications. I love to read, watch movies, and play video games in my spare time. I hope to learn from my mentor, and be successful in communications.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Reading, Watching movies, playing video games, DIY projects.



Bryan Jennings

UT Dallas

Information Security Intern, Information Security Office

Home Group: 4

I am finishing the junior year of my B.S. in Information Technology and Systems. I enjoy swing dancing, rock climbing and social video gaming.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: All things tech!



Mitul Kachhla

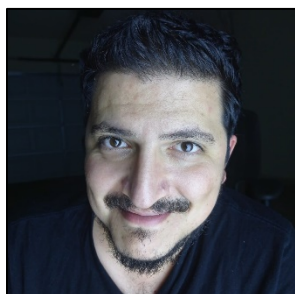
UT Arlington

Business Intelligence Intern, Shared Information Services

Home Group: 3

Hi, I am Mitul Kachhla majoring in Information Systems at UTA. I will be working as a Business Intelligence Intern in the office of shared information services. I am looking forward to learning more about BI tools and technology this summer. I will graduate in December 2021 and look for more opportunities.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I like to cook, go on long drives and explore different places.



Esad Kopru

UT Dallas

ERP Access Control Intern, Shared Information Services

Home Group: 1

I am Esad Kopru, a Ph.D. Student in Geospatial Information Sciences. I focus on spatial optimization specifically in location-allocation optimization. I have strong skills in scientific programming with Python and R, and I would like to build my career in both academic and data science fields.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Swimming, hiking with friends



Hilton Le

UT San Antonio

Tech Information Services Intern, Office of the CIO

Home Group: 5

UT San Antonio Class of 2022 Majoring in Cyber Security. Interests include music, cooking, coffee, and animals. My ultimate career goal is to work to actively keep online information safe for less tech-savvy people in an increasingly internet-connected world.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Music, Food/Cooking, Cats & Dogs



Mallika Mainali

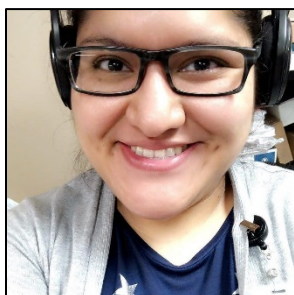
UT Tyler

Tech Information Services Intern, Office of the CIO

Home Group: 3

My name is Mallika Mainali. I am a junior pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science at the University of Texas, Tyler. I will be joining UT System as an IT infrastructure intern. My goal for this summer is to widen my experience in this field and develop technical skills through the internship.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I like learning about anything. I like to read books and take random courses online. I also love to paint and enjoy listening to music.



Sandra Montalvo

UT Tyler

Financial Analyst Intern, Office of the Controller

Home Group: 4

I am a senior Accounting major at the University of Texas at Tyler. My interests include reading, tabletop gaming, hanging out with friends, and taking care of my two elderly Shih Tzu's. My summer goal is to knock this internship out of the park and prep for my final semester as an undergrad.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Reading, working out, and watching Netflix and other streaming services.



Elizabeth Palau

UT Dallas

Human Resources Intern, Office of Talent & Innovation

Home Group: 5

I am a junior at UT Dallas, where I am majoring in Political Science, and I plan on graduating Fall of 2022. My past HR experience has influenced me to pursue a Masters in HR after graduating. I am also passionate about writing I especially enjoy writing about political institutions.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Outside of school/work I enjoy working on my ceramic pieces. I recently converted my garage into a small studio. I also really enjoy exploring downtown Dallas with my two English Bulldogs. When we're not in a pandemic I volunteer at my local animal shelter.



Tarun Punhani

UT Dallas

Portal Administrator Intern, Shared Information Services

Home Group: 1

I started my masters in Spring 2021 in Computer Science. I had six years of experience in the IT industry before coming to the USA. I have found nothing satisfies me more than trying out new things, solving problems and sitting on my laptop.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Table Tennis, Pool



Ruben (Ben) Romero

UT Austin

Financial Analyst Intern, Controller

Home Group: 3

I am a Sophomore studying Government and Finance. The intersection between government and business is where my interests lie, and I am excited to apply that interest to my position this summer. Beyond that, I have an uncontrollable love for coffee and skincare and am always willing to talk about it.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Some of my biggest interests are yoga, cooking, and coffee.



Kartikey Sharma

UT Arlington

Information Security Intern, Information Security Office

Home Group: 5

I am a junior majoring in Computer Science. I plan to achieve some widely known certifications in Cybersecurity during the summer while inputting my best work with UT System. I have an interest in playing music; I have been playing guitar and piano for years. I am also a gamer and car enthusiast.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Playing guitar and piano, working on cars, gaming, speed cubing



Ashney Shelly

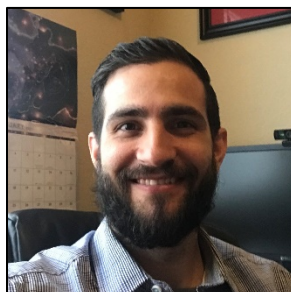
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Law Clerk, Office of General Counsel

Home Group: 2

I am the President of Mindfulness in Law School and a Student Ambassador. Prior to law school, I was a high school counselor and plan to practice in Education Law after school. Summer of 2020, I clerked with the Disability Rights of Texas. Outside of school, I am a yogi in training. Namaste!

Hobbies/Outside Interests: A Yogi in training!



Thomas (Tommy) Smith

UT San Antonio

Research & Reporting Graduate Intern. Office of Institutional Research & Analysis

Home Group: 1

I'm about to complete year one of my Master's degree in Statistics and Data Science. My summer goal is to successfully complete my assigned project with UT System and gain valuable work experience in the field of data science and build my resume. My career goal is to work in San Antonio in the field.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Right now my two sons (2 years old and 3 months old) are my hobbies.



Alexandra (Alex) Smith-Macias

UT Rio Grande Valley

Undergraduate Innovation Intern, Office of Talent & Innovation

Home Group: 4

Hi! My name is Alexandra Smith-Macias. I attend UTRGV and major in Political Science. My areas of interest are public policy and higher education. I hope to one day work in D.C. as a staffer for a senator or representative. My summer goals are to learn more about how the UT System helps Texas.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I like reading, running, baking and traveling.



Chirag Soni

UT Arlington

Tech Information Services Intern, Office of the CIO

Home Group: 2

I am Chirag Soni and I am a graduate student studying Computer Science at UTA (arrived Spring 2021) specializing in Information Security. I would love to be a digital super hero protecting people online. I want to gain relevant experience in the states for summer and eventually make my career in cybersecurity.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Social work, working with non-profit organizations, running short marathons and helping others.



Emmalyn Terracciano

UT San Antonio

Research & Reporting Graduate Intern, Office of Institutional Research & Analysis

Home Group: 2

I'm a master's student in Urban and Regional Planning. My interests are in environmental planning, and I've been assisting with research on climate justice and resiliency. I have a B.S. in Wildlife from Purdue University and I previously worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Dancing & hiking.



Makayla Vasek

UT Austin

Communications Intern, Office of Communications & Media Relations

Home Group: 5

I am a junior English and Public Relations double major and am also pursuing a certificate in Business Spanish. This summer my goals are to expand my communications skillset within the education sector. Ultimately, I'd like to pursue a career in international education.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: reading, hiking, kayaking, camping



Emily Willcott

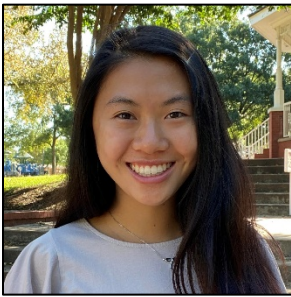
UT Medical Branch

Graduate Innovation Intern, Office of Talent & Innovation

Home Group: 2

I am a third-year student pursuing a PhD in Nursing. My research will explore how nurses respond to the ethical climates of their work environment. My summer goals include defending my proposal, entering candidacy, and venturing outdoors with my husband and three dogs.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Spending time with my dogs and husband, playing games, creating puns, watching football, gardening, movies, concerts, fishing, camping, travel, writing, all things food related



Kayla Wong

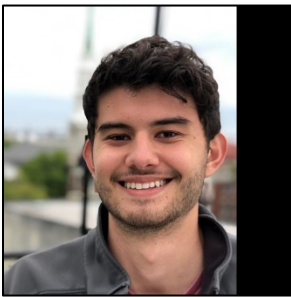
UT Austin

Academic Affairs Intern - Administration, Office of Academic Affairs

Home Group: 4

I am an incoming sophomore majoring in Marketing and minoring in Management Information Systems. I hope to work with data/technology in a way that can improve businesses and help the people they serve. This summer, I'll finally meet up with friends and finish all the books I've been wanting to read!

Hobbies/Outside Interests: Video editing, reading, listening to podcasts, hiking, and all things food: cooking, baking, eating, trying new foods



Zachary Zurita

UT Austin

Human Resources Intern, Office of Talent & Innovation

Home Group: 3

Hello! I am a Junior studying Human Dimension of Organizations with a minor in Business. This summer my goal is to build lasting relationships while learning the ins and outs of Human Resources. In the future, I hope to establish myself as an HR professional. My interests include football and hiking.

Hobbies/Outside Interests: I love college football, hiking, trying new restaurants, spending time with friends, and working out.