Grad Rebel Advantage Mentees

Congratulations to our incoming 2022-2023 cohort
Abel Ayalew

Class Standing: Junior
Department: College of Education
Major: Secondary Education

Academic Bio
Born in Ethiopia, Africa, came to the U.S at age 13. Played American football, and soccer throughout high school. The process of becoming a professional athlete was difficult financially. As a result, started to look for other avenues to become successful. Wanted to become a resource for other students in my situation and thought of teaching high school chemistry while coaching sports. Selected a major in education and found it challenging to navigate due to turning away from a long-time commitment with a sport and also a first-generation college student. It has gotten easier, and has developed a passion for dentistry along the way.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
I’m pursuing a career in dentistry and education. The reason is that these were two things I didn’t have as a child. I didn’t see my first dentist until I was age 15 and I didn’t go to school until I was 13. These two pieces were missing from my childhood, and sense the effects 7 years later. I believe health begins in the mouth, and every child deserves many opportunities for education.
Adinda is a Las Vegas local pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. After graduation, she plans to begin a career in crime scene investigation and later transition into federal law enforcement.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Adinda plans to pursue a Master’s in Criminology from California State University Long Beach as well as a certificate in Crime Scene Investigation to continue studying what she loves and grow her understanding of the criminal justice system.
Hi! I was born in Las Vegas but I was raised in Mexico City and Madison, WI. I received my Associate’s in Sociology at SBCC in Santa Barbara, CA before transferring to UNLV. I’m involved in student government and I chose my degree because I enjoy learning about the world!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan to pursue a PhD in Sociology in the near future. My current professional goal is to teach sociology classes at a university or focus on research. I would like to focus on human sexuality or LGBTQ+ studies in my research.
ALEIYA JADE CINTRON

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Health Sciences
Major: Biology
Minor: Neuroscience

Academic Bio
Aleiy Cintron is a multiracial first generation premedical student that was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. Not only has she prioritized her academics, she simultaneously pursued sports at a highly competitive level. Aleiya recently retired from division one collegiate athletics in the sport of women’s volleyball. She has always worked hard to maintain the proper balance of being a student and an athlete. After retiring, Aleiya shifted her focus on her passion of science and medicine at UNLV. Her career aspiration is to become a brain surgeon and aspires to practice medicine within the state of Nevada to serve the community in which she was raised.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Aleiy Cintron has chosen the graduate program as a way to pursue her dream of a medical career. As a first generation premedical student in her family, it is intimidating to understand the entire preliminary process of applying into medical school. This graduate program will act as a guidance and a learning experience throughout her long journey of being a premedical student.
Alessandra is a first-generation college student from Las Vegas, NV. Her studies focus on U.S. foreign policy and international relations. She is a board member at UNLV’s political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. Alessandra is a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow at the University of Michigan and interned for the U.S. Department of State in the U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Alessandra wants to pursue a graduate degree in international relations and national security. She hopes to use her education and become a foreign service officer in the U.S. Department of State.
ALEXANDER RIBEIRO

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology with a minor in Family Studies.

Academic Bio
Alexander is a local Las Vegan, born and raised. He graduated from Green Valley High School in 2020, and immediately entered college as a Psychology major. After an excellent experience in AP Psychology in his junior year, Alexander had found his passion the choice for a college major was simple.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Alexander currently intends to pursue a graduate degree in the field of clinical psychology. Courses from his minor and abnormal psychology helped him realize that his passion was in helping others overcome their own personal challenges.
Alexandra Miguez-Ruiz

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Psychology
Major: Psychology

Academic Bio
Alexandra is a first-generation student working towards her bachelor’s in psychology. She is the Treasurer for Psychology Club and a member of the 1st Generation Club at UNLV. She chose her major because mental health is important to her, and she wants to be an advocate for underrepresented peoples.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Alexandra plans on pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is pursuing this master’s program because she wants to help people that have been through abusive and traumatic situations by being a trauma informed counselor.
ALEXIA MORALES

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services

Major: Human Services

Academic Bio

Alexia was born and raised in New Mexico. She moved to Las Vegas in 2019 to pursue her education at UNLV. She is a first-generation college student and a member of UNLV’s 1st Generation Club. Alexia chose to study Human Services because she believes that the helping professions provide valuable resources to diverse populations and she wants to promote the importance of mental health.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Alexia plans on pursuing a Master of Science in the Couple and Family Therapy program because she hopes to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She wants to provide assistance and make a positive impact in the lives of individuals, couples, and families.
Alleyn Murphy

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Engineering

Major: Computer Science

Academic Bio

Alleyn is a Las Vegas local and a first-generation college student. He currently works as a teacher's aide and a web developer. He loves solving complex and challenging problems and because of this chose computer science as a major.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Alleyn plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Computer Science so that he can make contributions to research in time critical devices. He hopes to use this research to help areas related to healthcare, computer security, and the IoT.
ALLISON LONG

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Education

Major: Secondary Education with a concentration in English Composition

Academic Bio

Allison is a Wisconsin native who now calls Las Vegas home. On campus, Allison is a peer mentor for the P.A.L.S program in the College of Education. Off-campus, Allison works as a licensed Esthetician. Her driving force is making a difference in her future students’ lives.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Allison is interested in pursuing a M.A in English and a M.Ed in Curriculum & Instruction. Her post-graduation 5 year plan includes teaching AP Language and Composition, and she believes that having her Master’s degree will allow her to properly educate AP students. She is also interested in pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Leadership for Teachers and Professionals.
ALLY CHAN

Class Standing: Senior

Department: Health Sciences

Major: Kinesiology

Academic Bio

Ally was born and raised in Las Vegas. She is a first generation college student and participates in activities such as urban dance, video games, raving, and spending time with friends and family. She chose this major because of her passion for dance and helping people. In her career, she would like to become a physical therapist to rehabilitate and strengthen dancers.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Ally plans on pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy program because she believes that it is most aligned with what she wants to do in the future. She wants to be surrounded by dance throughout her life, so obtaining knowledge to help them specifically would allow that.
ALLYSSA SABELLE WEBB CHUA

Class Standing: Senior
Departments: College of Liberal Arts
Majors: Political Science and Anthropology

Academic Bio

Allyssa Chua is a Chinese-Filipino, born and raised in the Philippines. She started to have a passion for politics when it came to law and its effects to the people, especially the minorities. In the future, she hopes to use both Anthropology and Political Science to alleviate their voices, especially the indigenous or underrepresented communities.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

I plan to pursue law and Marine Biology for my graduate program. My choices have a lot to do with my home country, and the current state of the world being impacted by climate change. I find that there is power in both research and law, and I wish to use my knowledge for the severely impacted and vulnerable.
PHẠM PHÚ TRƯỜNG AN (ANDREW)

Class Standing: Junior/Senior
Department: Harrah College of Hospitality & Lee Business School
Major: Hospitality Management

Academic Bio
Minoring in Finance and Chinese, Andrew is an ambitious and perspicacious Vietnamese scholar, artist, pianist, and traveler. This unique perspective allows him to understand, and connect with anyone he comes across. He inspires others with his entrepreneurial spirit and big-picture mindset, pushing his surroundings to grow along with him.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
In order to secure a strong foundation that would one day allow him to accomplish his dreams of leaving a positive legacy, Andrew plans on attaining a consultancy after pursuing a Dual-Degree in Hotel Administration & Masters of Business Administration. If possible he would also want to pursue a degree in Public Administration.
ANGIE SHENOUDA

Class Standing: Junior

Department: Liberal Arts

Major: Gender & Sexuality Studies

Academic Bio

Angie is a first-generation student born and raised in Las Vegas. She chose to study Gender and Sexuality Studies because she is passionate about feminism and analyzing inequities in the pursuit of initiating social change. Angie currently serves as a student representative on the Dean’s Student Advisory Council to help foster community within the College of Liberal Arts. She is active in various clubs and organizations, including the 1st Generation Club and A4Zine Club.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Angie is currently still exploring her options. She would like to apply to a program that will allow her to pursue a career advocating for marginalized communities.
ANTONETTE MARASIGAN

Class Standing: Junior
Department: Integrated Health Sciences
Major: Kinesiology & Comprehensive Medical Imaging - Radiography

Academic Bio
Antonette was born and raised in Las Vegas. A full-time student, she majors in Kinesiology and Comprehensive Medical Imaging with a concentration in Radiography. She chose her majors as she always had an interest towards human movement and diagnostic imaging. Currently, she is one of the Communication Representatives for S.T.A.R.S.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
After completing her bachelor degrees and gaining clinical and research experience, Antonette plans to further her educational and professional career by pursuing the physician assistant program at Touro University. She hopes to become a physician assistant in the radiology field.
ARIANNA MORENO

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Psychology
Major: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Academic Bio
Arianna Moreno is a fourth year psychology student at UNLV. As Arianna made the adjustment to university, she became more involved in college life. Arianna is currently apart of a Latina Interest sorority, the Outreach Undergraduate program, and a research assistant! She hopes to one day become a marriage and family therapist in hopes to help others within her community.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
As Arianna is working towards the completion of her bachelors degree, she has actively searched for a graduate program that best fits her needs. While she is still undecided, she is leaning towards UNLV’s Marriage and Family therapy program and the Clinical Mental Health Program. She is interested in these programs as it would best prepare her for her desired career path.
BRANDIE AGUINALDO

Class Standing:
Junior/Senior

Department: Health Sciences and Liberal Arts

Major: Nursing and Psychology

Academic Bio
Brandie was born and raised in Hawaii. She is active in the UNLV Nursing School Student Government and numerous clubs. Helping people has been something that she always enjoyed doing through volunteering and to pursue a promising career in helping others, the Nursing field was perfect.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
She plans on pursuing a Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Nurse, or another Nursing related Master’s Degree because the importance to pursue a higher degree if she aspired and could persevere to do so was always instilled in her. She is very passionate about and wants to pursue her higher degree in the Nursing field.
Cecil Sayge Lycoris

Class Standing: Junior

Department: College of Liberal Arts and College of Education

Majors: English and Human Services

Academic Bio

Cecil is a life-long Nevadan, a first-generation college student, and a HOPE Scholar recipient. They chose their majors to pursue their passion for writing while engaging with social issues in their community.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

They plan to pursue an M.F.A in Creative Writing with the goal to be a published author. UNLV has a supportive and remarkable program opportunity for such plans, thus making it a top choice of theirs.
CHERISA CONWAY

Class Standing: Senior
Department: Liberal Arts
Major: Sociology

Academic Bio
Cherisa is new to Las Vegas having moved here from Hawaii. As a non-traditional student Cherisa works for the nonprofit organization Clean the World Foundation as a Project Coordinator for the WASH Program. Clubs she belongs to include the African Student Alliance, UNLV Sociology Club and Alliance of Non-Traditional Students.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Cherisa hopes to pursue an MS in Environmental Science & Sustainability. After completing Professor Futrell’s course on Social Dilemmas of Climate Change her interest in this field strengthened.
Chloe Lamb 
Class Standing: Senior
Department: Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Major: Social Work

Academic Bio
Chloe was originally born in California but was raised in Las Vegas her whole life. She transferred to UNLV from Azusa Pacific University and has been working towards completing her Bachelors in Social Work. Chloe loves to workout, watch scary movies and eat Canes in her free time.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?
Chloe wants to pursue a Masters degree in Social Work to complete her goal of becoming a LCSW after graduation. She wants to own a private practice one day and become a therapist for adolescents and families.
Chris Catechis

Class Standing: (e.g., Junior, Senior) Senior

Department: Engineering

Major: Computer Science

Academic Bio

Chris is a native Las Vegan with previous experience as the President and Treasurer of his fraternity as well as Training Program Manager of the Free Cyber Clinic. Chris has won awards from NASA, UNLV, and CSN regarding his academic accomplishments within the Computer Science department. He plans to pursue a career in Machine Learning and Software Engineering.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Chris plans on pursuing a Masters and PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. His research will be focused on medical and agricultural applications of AI. His passion for the STEM fields comes from an internal yearning for discovery and a sense of intrinsic altruism. He hopes to grow into an engineer that leaves a lasting and positive impact on humanity.
Academic Bio

Chris is a first-generation Mexican computer science student. He moved to Las Vegas in 2018 from Mexico and has enjoyed the city since. Chris is an officer of the ACM club and, through a community outreach, has taught K-12 students the basics of programming. Currently, he is a peer mentor for the college of engineering and a teaching assistant for the computer science department.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Chris plans on pursuing a computer science graduate degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The construction of the new advanced engineering building assures him that studying at UNLV is a good choice. His interests include image processing, computer graphics and machine learning.
Academic Bio

Dana was born and raised in Henderson, NV. She is a coach for rhythmic gymnastics and is pursuing a commission in the United States Air Force through ROTC. She choose biochemistry as her major because it would prepare her for rigorous medical school whilst providing the content knowledge needed.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

Dana plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health and then go to Medical School. She has chosen this masters program because she feels it is vital for physicians to understand public health.
David Cho is a local Las Vegan and a first-generation college student. As a psychology student, he is involved in the 1st Generation Club, Psi Chi, and the Psychology Club. He chose to major in psychology because he enjoyed AP Psychology and wanted to learn more about human behavior.

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

David plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Addiction Counseling. Having relatives and family friends suffering from drug and gambling addictions, he takes this personally. Therefore, he wants to pursue addiction counseling to be in a better position to help addicts combat this disease.
DILLON BROUWER

Class Standing: Junior

Department: FINE ARTS

Major: THEATER STUDIES

Academic Bio

Born in Las Vegas, I always wanted to attend UNLV to give back to my community. Working in the theater world as well as being on the UNLV REBEL IMPROV board has helped me gauge what things truly make me happy in life!

What graduate program do you plan on pursuing and why?

The graduate program opens up doors for me to work towards accomplishing my dream of attaining a masters degree in communication studies. Communication studies allows me to work in the education system to better the lives of our youth.