Sara Alvarado
User Experience Developer

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As a UX developer with a creative background in graphic design and art, I leverage formal training in accessibility, human-centered design, and web development to craft thoughtful and beautiful products that balance form and function, while catering to diverse user needs.

Education

University of Washington — Seattle, WA
Master of Science in Human-Centered Design and Engineering (HCDE) — Expected June 2026
Relevant Coursework: User-Centered Design, Usability Studies, User Research.

University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA
Bachelor of Art in Art and Design — Aug 2020—May 2024
Minor in Computer Programming
Cum Laude, Order of Troy Distinction
Relevant Coursework: Advanced Design Projects, Full-Stack Web Development, Tools for Digital Design.

Experience

UW Information Technology — Seattle, WA
Web Accessibility Assistant — Sep 2024—Present
- Conducts accessibility testing on university websites using a variety of evaluation tools to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.1 standards.
- Collaborates with developers and website owners to identify and implement accessibility improvements, utilizing WordPress, Drupal, and other content management systems.
- Applies strong proficiency in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to diagnose and resolve web accessibility issues, resulting in improvement in website usability for individuals with disabilities.

USC Information Technology Program — Los Angeles, CA
Learning Assistant — Aug 2022—May 2024
- Led office hours for ITP104, ITP301, and ITP304 by clarifying complex topics and answering questions.
- Facilitated learning for over 50 students per semester by conducting weekly coding labs and offering hands-on support in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, PHP, and MySQL.
- Assisted in grading assignments and exams, evaluating code quality, and identifying areas for improvement.

USC Student Life — Los Angeles, CA
Creative Content Assistant—Graphic Design — Mar 2022—May 2024
- Designed graphics, posters, merchandise, and digital content tailored to the USC student demographic, establishing a consistent brand presence that increased follower growth by 25%.
- Developed and executed rebrand of weekly events newsletter with a recipient list of over 40,000 students.

Academic Projects

UW ALACRITY Website Redesign — Sep 2024—Present
- Conducted content inventory, usability assessment, and card-sorting sessions with stakeholders to create an organized content hierarchy and sitemap tailored to diverse user needs.
- Applied redesigned structures within WordPress, enhancing site navigation and engagement, and supporting UWAC's mission to deliver accessible mental health resources.

Vanishing Spaces — Jul 2024—Aug 2024
- Created detailed and interactive web and mobile prototypes using Figma of a website for digitally preserving historically significant LGBTQ+ spaces in the American South.
- Presented deliverables to project clients and event participants, receiving positive feedback for the clear, intuitive interface and exciting branding.

Skills

Tools: Advanced HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, PHP, MySQL, WordPress, Squarespace.
UX: Accessibility, Usability Testing, Qualitative Interviews, Journey Mapping, Persona Development.
Design: Responsive Web Design, Prototyping, Visual Design, Typography, Graphic Design.