

Sara Alvarado

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Education

University of Washington

Master of Science in Human-Centered Design and Engineering (HCDE)
Relevant Coursework: User-Centered Design, Usability Studies, User Research.

Seattle, WA
Expected June 2026

University of Southern California

Bachelor of Art in Art and Design
Minor in Computer Programming
Cum Laude, Order of Troy Distinction

Los Angeles, CA
Aug 2020—May 2024

Relevant Coursework: Advanced Design Projects, Full-Stack Web Development, Tools for Digital Design.

Experience

UW School of Medicine Service Learning Program

Frontend Developer

Seattle, WA
Mar 2025—Present

- Develops and maintains a Next.js and React-based web application, improving accessibility, performance, and user experience.
- Translates Figma wireframes into responsive UI components, implementing modern UI/UX best practices.
- Collaborates with designers and stakeholders, manages Git workflows and CI/CD pipelines, and proactively improves the platform weekly.

UW Information Technology

Web Accessibility Assistant

Seattle, WA
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

Learning Assistant

Los Angeles, CA
Aug 2022—May 2024

- Led virtual office hours for ITP104: Web Publishing, ITP301: Front-End Web Development, and ITP304: Back-End Web Development 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.

Campus Involvement

AthenaHacks, Marketing Team

Sep 2023—May 2024

- Organizer for AthenaHacks, a women-centric hackathon held in Southern California.
- Led events and workshops for participants, judged software projects based on technical execution and innovation of concept.
- Designed assets, merchandise, and marketing material for the event.

KXSC, Webmaster

May 2023—May 2024

- Managed Squarespace website for USC's student-run radio station.
- Updated blog weekly with music news and reviews.

Skills

Tools: HTML/CSS, React.js, Next.js, Svelte, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Firebase, WordPress, Squarespace.

UI/UX: Accessibility (WCAG), Usability Testing, Prototyping, Responsive Web Design, Graphic Design.