

Alyson M. Gonzalez

School of Social Science and Global Studies
University of Southern Mississippi

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Educational History

B.S., Sociology and Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, May 2024

Minor in Non-Profit Students and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certification from the University of Southern Mississippi

Research Experience and Interest

McNair Scholars Program Research Study, “An Analytical Study on the Influence of Pedagogy on Racial Achievement Gaps in the United States”

Social and Political Interests

- Racial Inequality in Society
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Educational Policy
 - o Critical Race Theory in Education and Innovative Teaching Practices
- Multi-Party-Political Systems
- Elections and Campaign Analysis
- American Border Crisis
- International Human Rights and Social Justice

Endowments Awarded

Laura Ellen Trotti Scholarships Endowment, Fall 2023

Gertrude Fertitta Annual Scholarship, University of Southern Mississippi Scholarship Foundation, Summer 2023

Phil Bryant Executive Leadership Scholarship Endowment, Spring 2023

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program Scholarship, Spring 2023

Washington Center IHL Scholarship, Summer 2022

Academic Excellence Scholarship from the University of Southern Mississippi, Fall 2020

Conferences and Presentations

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Research Symposium, Fall 2023

- Presented

Ron Clark Academy’s Teaching Tips for Online Learning and Connecting with Students, Online Conference, March 27th, 2020

- Attended

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Southern Sociological Society Conference, “Disrupting Binaries”, Annual Meeting, April 2024
- Presenter, Paper Presentation

Honors and Awards

“Senator of the Year Award,” Student Government Association at the University of Southern Mississippi, Spring 2023

“Innovation Award,” for the Sexuality and Gender Equity Club at the University of Southern Mississippi, Spring 2022

- Awarded for our innovation as a new organization on campus during the Covid-19 pandemic, this was the Sexuality and Gender Equity’s club first year on campus from Fall 2021 to Spring 2022. During this time, I acted as a founding Executive Member for the campus organization to educate and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

“Future Woman of the Year Award,” The Black-Eyed Susans at the University of Southern Mississippi, Spring 2022

- An award given to a current woman that is attending the University of Southern Mississippi, by our campus’s women’s leadership honorary group. Dedicated to a student that has advocated and work aligns with equitable treatment and education for women.

Professional and Campus Experience

Office of Undergraduate Scholarships at the University of Southern Mississippi

June 2021 – Present

I currently work in the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships at the University of Southern Mississippi. Under work study, I am paid by the university to assist students with applying and maintaining the stipulations required for keeping their scholarships. I monitor daily tasks and answer telephone calls in relation to multiple forms of financial aid. I have full access to our scholarship and school portal and maintain confidentiality as it pertains to students’ financial aid.

Office of Orientation and Transition Programs at the University of Southern Mississippi

May 2023 – August 2023

Through the Summer of 2023, I serve as a summer orientation leader for our on-campus “Golden Eagle Welcome Week,” to help new incoming students become accustomed to our campus. I am a member of our paid executive team and oversee coordinating multiple events that take place through that week. Some of these events include, Welcome and Closing Ceremony, agendas for small group meetings between new students and crew members for the event, and session rotations that are hosted from multiple offices at our University.

Kidsave DC Metro Summer Miracles Intern

June 2022 – August 2022

During the summer of 2022, I worked in Washington, DC with a nonprofit, Kidsave. During my time in DC, I assisted with the advocacy work of Colombian orphans. Kidsave is a nonprofit that finds volunteers to act as host families to house and take care of these children, and have their doors open to the possibility of adoption. I worked with organizing weekend events for the families, and updating the advocacy flyers that would have information about the children that were a part of the summer program.

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During my internship, I had to work closely with the files given to use by the social workers, as well as translation at events and of documentation. I also organized our weekend events, and had to organize and purchase supplies, run check-in, and help with making sure food was provided.

Campus Involvement

Senior Vice President, Student Government Association

Student Government Association, the oldest student organization at the University of Southern Mississippi.

2020 - 2021 – Served as a senator for the Student Life Committee, advocating for students at our university. Started my work on the Menstruation Hygiene Bill as well as other legislation that impacts student life.

2021 – 2022 – Passed the Menstruation Hygiene Bill in partnership with Planned Parenthood Southeast and a faculty women’s group on campus to provide free menstruation products in women’s, men’s, and all-gender restrooms on our campus. Ran and served our Senate branch as President Pro Tempore, assisting the Senior Vice President in the operations of the branch.

2022 – 2023 – Served a second term as the President Pro Tempore in seeing the operations of the Senate. During my time as President Pro Tempore, I successfully passed 10 pieces of legislation. Nine of which modified and amended our Senate Bylaws and increased Senate seats as well as increasing our representation of Senators to better represent different areas on campus. My final piece of legislation that passed was a change to our campus Election Code, bringing a selection committee into the election process for Homecoming. This is to decrease campus littering during Homecoming season, decrease student funding that may be used to help save students money, and build prestige with the election process by making the process more rigorous.

2023 - 2024 - During my Senior year at the University of Southern Mississippi, I am serving as our Senior Vice President of the Student Government Association. I preside over the legislative branch of the Student Government Association. I maintain records of previous legislation that has been passed, appoint members of the Senate to their respective committees to better help campus, and set the legislative agenda for the sessions.

President, USM College Democrats

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024: President and Founder

- Founded the first chapter of College Democrats at the University of Southern Mississippi, the third largest public institution of higher education in the state of Mississippi. In this role, I have built connections with the Democratic Party of Mississippi. Organized campus involvement in campaigning for the Gubernatorial Race and Attorney General Race for November 2023. Alongside that, I have worked to grow interest in public policy on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi amongst young voters through campus events, voter registration drives, and hosting conferences with political figures.

President, Sexuality and Gender Equity Club

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022: Event Coordinator

- Organized the organization’s calendar, and orchestrated spaces for our events and speaking events on campus.

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023: President

- Acted as face of our organization and strengthened our connections with the PRISM LGBTQ+ Resource Office on campus. As President, I helped with orchestrating

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partnerships with other campus organizations, created new activities for SAGE to host on our campus, and giving the organization the ability to host and moderate panel discussions across campus.

Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Alpha Chi Omega Sorority

August 2021 – December 2022

- Served as our chapter's educator on issues relating to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In my time as Vice President, I partnered with our office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement to facilitate trainings in relation to combat biases, and educate members in social inequality, racial inequality, and LGBTQ+ rights. I served on our chapter's governing board, and oversaw cases in terms of maintaining membership standards, by doing so, I could provide insight and consequences for members when they violated membership standards in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion.