

Maria Vazquez

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Education

University of Texas- Austin, Texas (Expected Graduation - May 2028)

Major- B.A. English (Liberal Arts College & English Honors) & B.J. Journalism (Moody College Honors)

GPA- 3.96 – Dean’s List (Received every eligible semester)

Experience

The Washington Campus- Washington, D.C.

Spring 2026

Student Fellow

- Engaged with members of the U.S. Congress and policy professionals in discussions surrounding legislative strategy, public policy and economic issues shaping federal decision-making.
- Attended congressional hearings and policy briefings, gaining firsthand exposure to the legislative process and the role of advocacy, communications and political strategy in policymaking.

The Daily Texan- Austin, Texas

Spring 2025- Present

Associate Opinion Editor (Spring 2026- Present)

- Run in-person edits with writers. Oversee a group of columnists at pitch meetings, assist in writing editorials and work with social media to push opinion content online.
- Conduct interviews with university administrators, professors, and students to integrate diverse perspectives into reporting.

Senior Opinion Columnist (Spring 2025- Fall 2025)

- Write weekly opinion columns for UT Austin’s student newspaper, covering campus life, politics, and student belonging.

Volunteering

Students Expanding American Literacy- Austin, Texas

Fall 2024- Present

Active Member

- Visit Austin-based elementary schools once a week to assist first-graders in developing their reading skills.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired- Austin, Texas

Fall 2024- Present

Volunteer

- Assist in classroom and recreational activities for students with visual impairments, providing hands-on support and guidance.
- Foster an inclusive environment by engaging with students and helping staff facilitate adaptive learning programs.

Honors & Awards

5th Place for “Story of the Year - Column” category awarded by the Associate Collegiate Press, College Scholar, Texas Exes Scholarship