

Isabella Cardenas

Class Year: Senior

Major: Biology – Psychology

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

About

- My goal is to attend medical school and eventually become a neurosurgeon. I chose USCA because I wanted a university where I could build strong relationships with my professors, get involved on campus, and have opportunities to grow both academically and personally. My time at USCA has given me the opportunity to take on leadership roles, participate in research, and explore my passion for medicine. One of the most valuable parts of my experience at USCA has been the relationships I have built with my advisors. Their guidance and encouragement have shaped me for the better, both as a student and as a person, and they have played an invaluable role in helping me navigate my education and pursue my goals in medicine. I am incredibly grateful for the experiences and relationships I have made here, and I am proud to represent USCA as a Chancellor's Ambassador!

Campus Involvement

- Chancellor's Ambassador (2025–2027)
- President/Chair – SOMO's (Future Students of Medicine and Oral Sciences Hispanos) (2026–2027)
- Treasurer – Tri Beta (Biology Honor's Society) (2025–2027)
- Secretary – HSA (Hispanic Student Association) (2025–2026)
- Vice President/Chair – SOMO's (2025–2026)
- Senator – College of Sciences & Engineering (2025)
- Campus Involvement Chairwoman – Phi Mu (2025)

Awards/Honors

- 2025 INBRE Primer Grant
- 2026 INBRE Primer Extension Grant
- 2026 Magellan Scholar
- 2026 USCA Alumni Student Involvement Scholarship

Research Projects

- Yolk Protein Expression through the Egg Development of *Stomoxys calcitrans*
- Teasing Apart Egg Development in *Culicoides sonorensis*

Fun Facts

- Favorite Place on Campus: the Fly Lab!
- I have a huge soft spot for animals.
- Over the summer, I was able to foster and bottle-feed a newborn fawn and three kittens.
- I grew up riding horses and competed in dressage for most of my life.