

MCKINLEY ALMEIDA

Bentonville, Arkansas | almeida@uark.edu | mckinleyalmeida.com
[linkedin.com/in/mckinleyalm](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mckinleyalm)

EDUCATION

University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business Expected 2027
Professional Master of Information Systems, PhD preparation path; in progress

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 2026
B.S.B.A. in Economics; B.A. in Psychology
GPA 3.891/4.00; Magna Cum Laude; Honors Graduate

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

University of Arkansas Current
Graduate Assistant | Assigned to Dr. Zach Steelman and Dr. Abhay Mishra
Support Dr. Steelman's AI initiatives, including the VIBE lab; provide teaching assistance and develop practical tutorials on working with AI. Within the same assistantship, help develop a research project with Dr. Mishra, currently in the ideation phase.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-centered information systems; AI in healthcare; decision support and human agency; behavioral decision-making

HONORS THESES

Almeida, M. A. (2026). *Exploring power, SSES, and attribution* [Undergraduate honors thesis, University of Arkansas]. Advisor: Dr. Scott Eidelman.

Almeida, M. A. (2026). *Behavioral bottlenecks in Belizean smallholder farming: An action plan* [Undergraduate honors thesis, University of Arkansas]. Advisor: Dr. Amy Farmer.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Münster, Münster, Germany 2026–Present
Visiting Researcher (Faculty collaborators: Dr. Fumi Kurihara, Dr. Tamara Roth)
Contributing to an interdisciplinary project examining how AI-enabled systems in healthcare may support human agency. Current work includes literature synthesis, study-design development, and IRB protocol preparation.

University of Arkansas, Department of Psychological Science 2024–2026
Honors Thesis Researcher (Advisor: Dr. Scott Eidelman)
Designed and conducted an experiment testing how recalled power states shape causal attribution across subjective socioeconomic comparison frames (N = 243). Managed recruitment, Qualtrics instrumentation, data cleaning, and OLS regression with covariates; interpreted national and community comparison-frame models to evaluate how power, agency, and social position shape internal versus external attribution.

Ministry of Agriculture, Dangriga, Belize 2024
Economic Development Intern and Honors Thesis Researcher
Conducted field research with smallholder farmers on socioeconomic conditions, farming practices, economic viability, organic production readiness, and climate resilience. Led workshops with farmers and government officials on sustainable agriculture and financial planning. Analyzed socioeconomic barriers affecting farm productivity and delivered recommendations to improve farmer decision-making; created a 17-page Farm Plan Outline and helped 50+ farmers pursue subsidies covering up to 85% of eligible costs.

University of Arkansas, Department of Psychological Science 2024
Research Assistant (Faculty mentor: Dr. Scott Eidelman)
Helped run 200+ participants in research examining how challenged beliefs relate to anti-intellectual attitudes; supported participant management, data confidentiality, and preparation of a first-author SPSP 2025 poster.

Linda Childers Knapp Elementary School / University of Arkansas		2024
<i>Research Mentor, Child Well-Being Mentoring Program</i>		
Served as mentor in a research program on child well-being; delivered empirically grounded, relationship-centered mentoring practices and supported the project through data collection and literature review.		
COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING		
Honors College Internship Grant, University of Arkansas.	Field research in Dangriga, Belize.	\$5,000
Honors College Research Grant, University of Arkansas.	Undergraduate honors research.	\$4,000
Honors College Conference Grant, University of Arkansas.	National conference presentation and travel.	\$1,200
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS		
Almeida, M. A., & Eidelman, S. (2026). <i>Exploring power, subjective socioeconomic status, and attribution</i> [first-author poster presentation]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.		
Almeida, M. A., Roweton, M. A., & Eidelman, S. (2025). <i>Challenged beliefs increase anti-intellectual attitudes</i> [first-author poster presentation]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Denver, CO.		
SELECTED RESEARCH AND DESIGN PROJECTS		
Temperloom Walton AI Challenge		2026
Designed and built an app and website for between-session monitoring, with a calendar, task list, intensity tracking, notes, a friction log, and AI-assisted reflection.		
Ridgewood		Current prototype
Developing a local-first adaptive learning RPG that uses demonstrated work, the amount of support needed, and delayed review to guide practice. Chess is the first reusable learning template; the prototype has not been validated as a measure of learning.		
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE		
Junto Club, University of Arkansas		2025–2026
<i>Co-founder and President</i>		
Co-founded an interdisciplinary organization for intellectual discussion and diverse perspective-taking; grew membership to approximately 150 students.		
Filipino Student Organization, University of Arkansas		2025–2026
<i>Treasurer</i>		
Managed budgeting, financial planning, and event operations for campus cultural programming.		
HONORS AND AWARDS		
Senior of Significance, University of Arkansas		2026
Magna cum laude in Economics and Psychology; Honors Graduate, University of Arkansas		2026
Chancellor's List; Dean's List, University of Arkansas		
RESEARCH METHODS AND TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES		
Research methods: Experimental design; survey research; data collection and cleaning; literature review and synthesis; OLS regression		
Software and platforms: SPSS; Stata; Qualtrics; Excel; generative AI development tools (e.g., Claude Code, Codex); workflow automation (n8n)		
Research communication: Scientific writing; conference poster presentation; stakeholder workshops; public speaking		
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE		
Collegiate Athlete, Bowling, University of Arkansas		2024–2026