

# David Aguilar

## Criminology

### 2014 Outstanding Graduate



David truly is an outstanding student who has excelled academically in his Criminology major (Forensic Behavioral Sciences option). He has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout his undergraduate studies. He is a member of the highly selective Criminology Honors program and is also completing a major in Psychology. However, his achievements and contributions are far from confined to the classroom. David is actively engaged in research with Criminology faculty. He runs a criminal justice student society, he works as an academic peer counselor, undertakes extensive roles and responsibilities within campus-based organizations, and engages in community service. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the University Student Union. He has consistently proven himself to be exceptional in all that he undertakes and a Criminology Department professor has recently described him as being “an important student leader within our major.”

As a student in the Department of Criminology Honors Program, a highly achieving cohort, David stands out as an excellent student. One of his professors notes that, “His intelligence was apparent in all of his coursework. David was able to grasp the material very quickly and he displayed sharp analytic insight in class discussion and in his papers and exams...His enthusiasm and passion for the subject, and for his academic studies in general, also stood out, and it was an absolute pleasure to have him in class.” Based on his academic skills and aptitude for engaging in research, David was selected to join the competitive McNair Scholar program, a program that seeks to encourage and challenge talented students who plan to attend graduate school. He is in the process of applying to graduate programs that will allow him to combine his interest in forensics and psychology.

David is the student president of the campus chapter of a national criminal justice honors society (Alpha Phi Sigma). Dr. Emma Hughes, Faculty Advisor for this organization, notes that, “I am consistently impressed by the energy he brings to this society, especially given his other significant commitments. The enthusiasm with which he seeks to expand the group’s academic and community service activities, and engage new students, is remarkable. Indeed, David has been instrumental in keeping this honors society alive since the departure of Professor Mark Stevens who originated this important opportunity for our students.”

David is an extremely personable and friendly individual who exhibits concern for others, as well as strong leadership skills. His interest in Criminology clearly extends to applying what he has learned in the classroom to assisting within the community. David has volunteered for a local Victim Offender

Reconciliation Program, and his responsibilities have included providing mediation for juvenile offenders and their victims. In addition, he arranged for books that had gone unused in a local Head Start program to be donated to the education department at the Fresno Juvenile Justice Campus. This undertaking is illustrative of David's sense of initiative and follow-through, which combined with his intellectual abilities, and excellent people skills, have consistently resulted in stellar contributions to the Criminology Department, to Fresno State, and to the wider Fresno community.