

# David Alvarracin-Pillaga

[LinkedIn](#): david-alvarracin-pillaga / [dalvarrac@u.rochester.edu](mailto:dalvarrac@u.rochester.edu) / [Portfolio](#) / (347) 400-4711

## EDUCATION

**University of Rochester** | *B.A. Financial Economics, Clusters: American Sign Language and Mathematics* August 2020 - May 2024

- Ahora Scholarship awarded to academically excellent students from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Coursework emphasis: econometrics, applied statistics, data analysis.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Labor Market Impacts of DACA Eligibility** | *Personal Project* January 2026 - June 2026

- Built a difference-in-difference model on IPUMS ACS microdata (2008-2016) to estimate DACA's causal effect on occupational mobility among DACA-eligible Hispanics.
- Applied weighted least squares with standard errors clustered at the state-level finding a statistically significant shift of eligible individuals from farming/manual labor into higher-paying technical, sales, and management positions.

**NYC's MTA Fares Prices vs. Inflation** | *Personal Project* October 2025 - Present

- Built an ETL pipeline in Python, merging MTA fare history with BLS CPI data pulled via FRED API.
- Discovered that despite frequent small price increases, commuters from 2021-2025 paid 11% less for real MTA base fares.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**MDRC** | *Gueron Scholar Intern - Research Assistant* June 2023 - August 2023

- Awarded the Rebecca Blank Fellowship for excellence in policy research.
- Analyzed data on Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs across U.S. cities and evaluated program effectiveness.
- Advised research associates and Rise Up Cambridge team on economic mobility and housing.
- Conducted mixed-method research with UT El Paso, UT Tyler, and UT Austin to validate data and support development of a transfer tool for students.

**University of Rochester, Dr. Singleton** | *Research Assistant* April 2023 - February 2024

- Assessed 1,200+ School Board Meeting Minutes files from 147 school districts to study education policy conversations.
- Coded policy-related keywords to build training data for a model measuring the popularity of policies (Critical Race Theory, book bans, gender/sexuality communication, etc.).
- Standardized 60+ School Board Meeting Minute files to ensure consistency across written minutes and recordings.
- Structured datasets to capture quantitative and qualitative data on policy discussions from parents and institutions.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP

**Legal Outreach** | *College Access Intern* May 2022 - August 2022

- Mentored 52 high school students from low-income, first-generation students through the college application process.
- Designed and taught SAT math lessons using exam data to target common errors resulting in increased practice exam scores.
- Provided 1-on-1 support for personal statements, helping students craft compelling narratives and build confidence in writing.

**University of Rochester** | *Public Safety Student Leader* November 2022 - May 2024

- Led team of 6 students to ensure adherence to campus safety policies, with a focus on protecting student wellbeing and collaborated with Public Safety Officers to coordinate responses to campus incidents.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Trader Joe's** | *Crew Member and Order Writer* December 2024 - Present

- Used sales patterns and delivery constraints to inform product order decisions, minimizing spoilage and stockouts.
- Collaborated with team members and leadership to ensure good customer service, floor readiness, and smooth store operations during peak and off-peak hours.

## SKILLS

- Technical: Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), Python (Pandas, Plotly, Seaborn, Statsmodels, FRED)
- Research: Data Cleaning & Visualization, Literature Review, Difference-in-Differences, Causal Inference, Regression Analysis
- Languages: Spanish (Bilingual), ASL (Beginner)

## Certificates - Coursera

---

- Data Visualization with Python (IBM)
- Databases and SQL for Data Science with Python (IBM)
- Python for Data Science, AI & Development (IBM)

*March 2025*  
*November 2024*  
*November 2024*