PAOLA SANTINI DOSAL

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An undergraduate senior pursuing a major in Marine and Aquatic Biology and a minor in Political Science. Passionate in giving back to my community and ensuring clear communication and collaboration.

EDUCATION

B.S. **University of Central Florida, Biology** 2024 – Present
Marine and Aquatic, GPA: 3.60

A.A. **Valencia College, General Studies** 2022 – 2024
Biology, GPA: 3.83

HONORS AND AWARDS

U-LEAD Academy 2025 - Present
A prestigious group representing the student body and engaging in leadership, service, and university initiatives.

President's Leadership Council 2025 - Present
A prestigious group representing the student body and engaging in leadership, service, and university initiatives.

McNair Scholar 2024 - Present
Awarded a spot in the McNair TRIO Scholars program for continuing education in graduate school programs.

NOAA EPP/MSI Scholar 2024 - Present
Awarded one of 15 spots on the scholarship and internship opportunity with NOAA as an undergraduate.

Puma of the Year Award 2023 - 2024
Collegewide Student of the Year award for exhibiting outstanding leadership and commitment to Valencia.

LSAMP Scholar 2022 - 2024
Awarded all 3 LSAMP medallion distinctions for becoming a research scholar, intern, and mentor.

Seneff Honors College Scholar 2022 - 2024
Completed 30+ honor credits in the Valencia College Senneff Honors College.

VECTOR NSF STEM Scholar 2022 - 2024
One of ten scholars selected for the National Science Foundation Valencia College paid research program.

PHI THETA KAPPA – President 2022 - 2024
Accepted and awarded a president position at the prestigious society for two-year college students.

STEM Club - President 2022 - 2024
Honored with the role of president at Osceola STEM Club, allowing me to encourage other students in STEM.

Global Distinction at Valencia College Scholar 2022 - 2024
Obtained the global citizen distinction medallion for my commitment to a multicultural perspective in research.

Career Action Distinction 2022
Obtained the (CAD) distinction by participating in a semester of workshops and job discovery.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Conexiones, University of Central Florida Sep 2024 to Present
Work-Study Clerk

- Assist with student mentoring and guidance.
- Provide workshops and educational growth learning for students.
- Expand student engagement and sign-ups for the program.

International English Program, Valencia College Aug 2022 to Jan 2024
Work-Study Clerk

- Assist with C2K in performing tasks including addressing student book distribution.
- Administer level change tests made for students' academic success.
- Pre-register new and current students for level selection.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NOAA EPP/MSI Research Project, NOAA IRC Honolulu, HI 2025
Advisor: M.Ed. Leon Gweschwind, Ph.D. Beth Lenz & M.Sc. Jennifer McCullough
"Harmonizing Place-Based Education with the Symphony of Hawai'i Seas Project"

Marine Ecology and Conservation Lab (MEC LAB), UCF Orlando, FL 2025
Advisor: Ph.D. Geoffrey Cook
"Tracking Coastal Habitat Transitions in the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Natural Estuarine Research Reserve"

NOAA EPP/MSI Research Project, NOAA Headquarters, Silver Springs, MD 2024
Advisor: M.A. Audra Luscher
"Establishing Data Use Cases of Coastal Ocean Reanalysis (CORA) using GIS StoryMaps"

LSAMP Research Project, Valencia College, Kissimmee, FL 2023
Advisor: Ph.D. James Adamski
"Spatial and Temporal Variability of Nitrate and Phosphate Levels in Springs within Wekiva River Basin"

LMRCSC, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 2023
Advisor: Ph.D. Stephanie Stotts
"Influence of Salinity on Loblolly Pines: High and Low Elevation Coastal Forest Wood Density"

Honors Research Project, Valencia College, Kissimmee, FL 2023
Advisor: Ph.D. Marie Trone
"Amazon River Dolphin (*Inia g.*) Population Demographics Using Drone Videos from the Peruvian Amazon"

LSAMP Research Project, Valencia College, Orlando, FL 2023
Advisor: Ph.D. James Adamski
"Effects of Daily, Monthly and Annual Rainfall Fluctuations in Central Florida From 1950-2022"

Honors Process Research class, Valencia College, Kissimmee, FL 2022
Advisor: Ph.D. Rita Luther
"Effects of Ocean Deoxygenation in the Physical Development of Gorgonian Corals"

Summer STEM Institute, Valencia College, Orlando, FL 2022
Advisor: Ph.D. Rita Luther
"Harvesting Energy from Whale Soundwaves"

PRESENTATIONS

AAAS-STEM ERN Conference Research Project, Atlanta, GA 2025
- "Establishing Data Use Cases of Coastal Ocean Reanalysis (CORA) using GIS StoryMaps"

EPIC Research Project, Jackson, MS 2024
- "Establishing Data Use Cases of Coastal Ocean Reanalysis (CORA) using GIS StoryMaps"

Global Distinction Workshop, Valencia College, Orlando, FL 2024
- "Idea to Impact: The Art and Necessity of Research"

AAAS-STEM ERN Conference, Washington, D.C. 2024
- "Effects of Daily, Monthly and Annual Rainfall Fluctuations in Central Florida from 1950-2022"

FCHC Honors Conference, Tampa, FL. 2024
- "Amazon River Dolphin (*Inia g.*) Population Demographics Using Drone Videos from the Peruvian Amazon"

AAAS-STEM Conference, Washington, D.C. 2023
- "Amazon River Dolphin (*Inia g.*) Population Demographics Using Drone Videos from the Peruvian Amazon"

LMRCSC Conference, UMES, Princess Anne, MD 2023
- "Assessing the Influence of Salinity on Loblolly Pines (Pinus taeda): A Comparative Study of High and Low Elevation Coastal Forest Wood Density on the Delmarva Peninsula"

LSAMP Symposium, Valencia College, Orlando, FL 2023
- "Effects of Daily, Monthly and Annual Rainfall Fluctuations in Central Florida from 1950-2022"

Summer STEM Institute, Valencia College, Orlando, FL 2022
- "Harvesting Energy from Whale Soundwaves"

The CLEO Institute, online, Orlando, FL 2022
- "What is Climate Change?"

ARTICLES AND MEDIA

Sea Grant Summer Interns, Honolulu, HI 2025
- https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/directory/undergraduate-fellows/

McNair UCF Scholars Spotlight, Orlando, FL 2024
- https://academicsuccess.ucf.edu/aap/programs/mcnair/current-scholars/

Paola's Graduation Journey, Orlando, FL 2024
- https://valenciacollege.edu/about/stories/graduation-story-paola-santini.php

NOAA EPP/MSI Scholar, Silver Springs, MD 2024
- https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/epp-msi/undergraduate-scholarship/current/2024-2026-eppmsi-undergraduate-scholars

ConeXiones Peer Mentor Spotlight, Orlando, FL 2024
- https://connect.ucf.edu/conexiones/

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Avalon Medical Educators

Phlebotomy – Florida Board of Nursing 2025

PADI Scuba

Open Water Scuba Diver Certification 2024

American Heart Association

First Aid, CPR, AED Certification 2024

CITI Program

Research Investigator 2023

Researchers – Information Privacy and Security (IPS) 2022

Students and Instructors – Information Privacy and Security (IPS) 2022

Conflicts of Interest / IRB Chair 2022

Institutional/Signatory Official: Human Subject Research 2022

Social-Behavioral-Educational (SBE) Comprehensive 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Crisis Text Line, Orlando, FL — 2025 - Present
Role: Bi-lingual Crisis Counselor Volunteer — Community Hours: 200+

Adult Literacy League, Kissimmee, FL — 2023 - present
Role: Tutor Intermediate ESOL students. — Community Hours: 100+

Service Learning, Kissimmee, FL — 2023 - 2024
Role: Learning Assessment Interviewer/Assistant — Community Hours: 100

Valencia Volunteers, Kissimmee, FL — 2022 - 2024
Role: College Development Volunteer — Community Hours: 100+

The CLEO Institute, Orlando, FL — 2022
Role: Climate Advocate Speaker/Presenter — Community Hours: 50+

Key Club, Lakeland Senior High School — 2019 – 2022
Role: Club President/Lead Volunteer — Community Hours: 1,000+

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Speak/Read/Write **English**: Speak/Read/Write **Portuguese**: Understand