

Rocio Perales Valdes

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Education

Georgia Institute of Technology | BS/MS Computer Science | **GPA: 3.92**

May 2028

Minor: Law, Science & Technology

Relevant Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms; Linear Algebra; Discrete Math; Intro to AI; Objects & Design; Computer Organization & Programming; Science, Technology & International Affairs

Skills

Programming: Java, C++ , Python, JavaScript, Web (HTML, CSS)

AI/ML: PyTorch, TensorFlow, YOLO, Autoencoders, Sparse Autoencoders (SAEs)

Robotics: ROS2, PID Control

Languages: English, Spanish, French (Conversational)

Professional & Research Experience

Summer Fellow | [Institute for AI Policy and Strategy \(IAPS\)](#)

Jun. 2026 – Aug. 2026

- Conducting robotics threat modeling research on the **Frontier Security** team
- Synthesized the 269 Great American AI Act discussion draft into a 2-pager to inform the **Policy Team's** decision-making
- Produced an explainer of the FCC preventing foreign new advanced robotics from receiving equipment authorization

Undergraduate Researcher | [PAIR Lab – Georgia Tech](#)

Nov. 2025 – Present

- Conducting robotics interpretability research with **Prof. Animesh Garg**, under Stepan Shabalin applying **Sparse Autoencoders (SAEs)** to vision-language-action models

ML Solutions Intern | ZeruDrones

Jun. 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Trained **YOLO models** on AWS-based GPU instances for electrical infrastructure anomaly detection
- Integrated **convolutional autoencoders** to detect anomalies in powerline inspections for compliance detection

Leadership & Campus Involvement

Chair | **AI & Student Body Subcommittee – Georgia Tech**

Jan. 2026 – Present

- Selected by Provost Raheem Beyah to chair subcommittee for Georgia Tech's institutional AI strategy
- Designed and deployed campus-wide survey collecting **1K+ student responses** on AI usage and concerns
- Results will inform GT's strategic AI plan by May 2026

Co-Director | **AI Safety Initiative ([AISL.dev](#))**

Jan. 2026 – Present

- Lead 15-person exec organization and oversee task delegation for AI safety research and education
- Manage \$30K+ of external funding and our Policy Fellowship curriculum and Fellowship
- Led **deepfake governance research team** under **Dr. Margaret Kosal**; invited to **Anthropic Economic Futures Symposium**
- Previously Communications and Media lead (Sept. 2025)

Software Developer | [RoboJackets](#) – [RoboCup SSL](#)

Aug. 2024 – Sept. 2025

- Contributed to large-scale robotics software framework (C++/Linux/ROS2)
- **Led technical challenge implementation** resulting in **2nd place** and **4th overall** at [RoboCup 2025 Intl](#)
- Contributed to [multi-robot pathfinding system](#) with real-time decision-making under uncertainty

Active Member: Kappa Alpha Theta, SHPE, Women@CollegeOfComputing

Awards & Recognition

[Stamps Walk-On President's Scholarship](#) | [Georgia Institute of Technology](#)

March 2026

- Competitively selected for full-ride scholarship recognizing academic achievement and leadership

[AI Safety, Ethics, and Society Course](#) | [Center for AI Safety](#)

Nov. 2025 – Feb. 2026

[Economic Futures Symposium](#) | [Invited Guest](#)

Sept. 2025

- Invited by **Anthropic** for contributions to **AI policy and governance research** on deepfake regulation

[Pathfinder Fellow](#) | [Kairos](#)

Aug. 2025

[AI@ATL Hackathon Winner](#) | [Major League Hacking](#)

Oct. 2024

- Built **synthetic medical dataset generator** and **prompt injection testing framework**

- Won **1st place** in the **AI Safety track** for live technical demonstration

Academic Scholarship | [Eastern Mediterranean International School](#)

Aug. 2022 – May 2024

Personal interests: Music composition and production, Running, Soccer