



**The Department Congratulates the Winner of the
2025 Jeanne Iverson Memorial Award
Jordan Nakanishi-Rodriguez**



Jordan Nakanishi-Rodriguez is a graduate student in Human Factors and Ergonomics at San José State University with a background in Kinesiology and an interest in applying ergonomic principles to improve tools, systems, and workplaces. His academic and practical experiences reflect a consistent focus on human performance, physical health, and the design of user-friendly environments.

Jordan began his academic journey at Cabrillo College in Aptos, California, where he earned an Associate of Science in Kinesiology, graduating with high honors. He continued his studies at California State University, Monterey Bay, earning a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2022. He graduated magna cum laude with a 3.8 GPA and was recognized on the Dean's List. While there, he also served as the Treasurer of the Fitness and Weightlifting Club and earned ACSM certification as a personal trainer, which remains valid through May 2025.

Currently pursuing his master's degree at San José State University, Jordan is expanding his understanding of human-centered design through the lens of ergonomics. His graduate studies are preparing him to evaluate how systems interact with physical and cognitive human abilities, and how improvements can be made to support safety, comfort, and performance.

In addition to his education, Jordan has gained practical experience in a variety of work settings. From 2021 to 2022, he worked as a Physical Therapy Aide at **Amy Dore' Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** in Pacific Grove, California. There, he supported patient rehabilitation by assisting with exercises, providing anatomical explanations, and operating equipment such as ultrasound and electrical

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Jordan Nakanishi-Rodriguez, continued:

stimulation devices. He also managed administrative tasks, including checking insurance coverage and retrieving equipment for the physical therapist. This role gave him exposure to clinical practices and patient interaction, as well as insight into the importance of ergonomic considerations in healthcare.

From 2017 to 2024, Jordan worked at **P and K Farms** in Watsonville, California, where he held responsibilities as both a Farm Hand and Assistant Manager. His work included irrigation, erosion control, and a range of construction tasks, including framing, siding, drywall, and vehicle maintenance. This experience helped him develop hands-on problem-solving skills and a familiarity with the physical demands of manual labor—perspectives that are valuable in understanding real-world ergonomic challenges.

Jordan is also preparing to begin a role with **Performance Based Ergonomics** as an Ergonomic Evaluator. Although his start date is still pending, this role will involve evaluating workspaces and equipment for ergonomic effectiveness and safety, building on both his academic training and prior field experience.

Jordan's education and work experience reflect a steady interest in how people interact with their environments. With a developing background in ergonomics and exposure to a range of settings—from clinical to agricultural—he is continuing to build the skills and knowledge needed to support human-centered design and evaluation efforts.

Jordan writes:

... Having worked as a physical therapy aide and a farm hand on a strawberry farm, I experienced how physically demanding tasks, and poor ergonomics can contribute to injury and discomfort. These experiences have piqued my interest in physical ergonomics, motivating me to seek the knowledge and skills needed to create solutions that enhance human performance and reduce injury risk.

... With my interest in physical ergonomics and ergonomic solutions technology can give us, I want to deepen my knowledge and expertise in biomechanics, usability testing and user centered design. The SJSU HFE program will equip me with these skills so I will be prepared upon entry into the workforce. After the program I want to continue gaining experience in the field of ergonomics and hopefully transition to a company that works with exoskeletons.