

Thaisa Santos is a Junior at John Jay College, majoring in English with a double minor in Psychology and Creative Writing. She currently serves as a research and administrative assistant at the Office for Student Research & Creativity (OSRC). Thaisa is excited to kick off her research on gender bias in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis practices with OSRC during the upcoming cohort year 2024-2025.

In addition to her role at OSRC, Thaisa has been newly accepted as a McNair Scholar for the year 2024-2025, providing her another opportunity to conduct her own research. Thaisa's dedication to education extends beyond her academic pursuits. She holds a teaching certificate and uses it to tutor middle school-aged students in underrepresented communities for free. Additionally, she actively participates in volunteer opportunities with New York Cares, engaging in various initiatives across the city.

Thaisa is also a passionate advocate for Planned Parenthood, supporting their mission to provide accessible and comprehensive reproductive healthcare. She believes in the importance of reproductive rights and works to raise awareness and support for these crucial services.

Looking ahead, Thaisa aspires to earn a Juris Doctor degree (JD) specializing in Education Law and Policy. She aims to address the educational gaps in minority communities by advocating for better access to resources. Through her research, teaching, advocacy, and future legal career, Thaisa is committed to fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.