

MICHELLE GIL

University of Texas at El Paso
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
August 2025 – Present

Master of Public Health

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
August 2023 – December 2025

Thesis: Gender and Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Outcomes in Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Youth and Young Adults in Texas and California, 2022–2024

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
January 2020 – December 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
2024 – 2025

Prostate Cancer Screening Study among Mexican-Origin Hispanic Men

- Contributed to a mixed-methods study focused on increasing prostate cancer screening among Mexican-origin Hispanic men in El Paso County
- Designed and administered bilingual surveys assessing screening attitudes, knowledge, barriers, and intentions
- Assisted with participant recruitment, bilingual focus groups, and community-based data collection efforts
- Supported development of culturally tailored health communication materials addressing screening barriers and cultural beliefs
- Assisted with implementation of randomized controlled trial procedures and study logistics
- Conducted quantitative and qualitative data analysis in SPSS, including chi-square tests, t-tests, ANOVA, and regression analyses

- Supported IRB-related materials, participant compensation procedures, and project coordination

Master's Research Assistant

Health Communication and Risk Perception (HCRP) Laboratory, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

2023 – 2024

- Supported multiple public health research projects focused on health communication, infectious disease prevention, vaccine perceptions, and cancer-related disparities in Hispanic communities
- Contributed to the RADx-Up project by helping design and evaluate a bilingual COVID-19 rapid self-test intervention aimed at improving self-efficacy and testing intentions
- Assisted with studies examining HPV-related knowledge, attitudes, and trusted sources of vaccine information among Mexican American parents in the U.S./Mexico border region
- Recruited participants in English and Spanish and supported survey administration across community-based research settings
- Developed bilingual study materials and assisted with data collection, cleaning, organization, and analysis
- Participated in research meetings, study implementation, IRB-related activities, and participant compensation procedures

Research Assistant

Health Communication and Risk Perception (HCRP) Laboratory, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

2022

- Supported community-based research on COVID-19 and HPV vaccine perceptions, attitudes, and trusted health information sources
- Assisted with survey development, administration, and participant communication
- Helped maintain data integrity, confidentiality, and compliance with research protocols
- Contributed to data organization, reporting, and day-to-day study support

Research Student, Phylogenetics and Taxonomy

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

2020

- Assisted with laboratory research involving amphibian and reptile specimens
- Conducted PCR-based DNA procedures to support analysis of genetic relationships and species boundaries
- Maintained research records, documentation, and laboratory procedures in accordance with project standards

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, School of Pharmacy

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

January 2026 – May 2026

- Supported course instruction and classroom activities in the School of Pharmacy
- Assisted with grading, course organization, and student communication
- Contributed to student learning in a professional health sciences academic setting

PUBLICATIONS

Gbugu, U. O., **Gil, M.**, Mancera, B., Abegaz, T., & Fietze, G. A. Bilingual Digital Health Intervention to Improve COVID-19 Self-Testing Intentions Among Hispanic Adults. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, 1662987.

Martinez, A. A., **Gil, M.**, Shastri, S. S., & Fietze, G. A. (2025). Exploring Trusted Sources of HPV Vaccine Information Among Mexican American Parents in El Paso, Texas. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(1), 69. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22010069>

Gil, M. (2025). *Gender and Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Outcomes in Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Youth and Young Adults in Texas and California, 2022–2024* (Master's thesis, The University of Texas at El Paso).

Fietze, G. A., Xu, C., Mancera, B., Robles-Escajeda, E., Martinez, A. A., **Gil, M.**, Flores, D. P., Begum, K., Liang, P., Mandal, A., Nsiah-Nimo, M., Sanyal, N., Leung, M.-Y., Kenney, M. J., & Kirken, R. A. (2025). Exploring Socio-Behavioral Correlates of Metabolic and Inflammatory Risk in a University Sample Residing Along the U.S./Mexico Border: A Pilot Study Concomitantly Collecting Survey Data, Blood and Hair Samples, and Physical Measures. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(4), 647. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22040647>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Mancera, B. M., & **Gil, M.** (2026). Barriers, facilitators, and motivators of prostate cancer screening among Mexican-origin Hispanic men: A literature review [Manuscript under review at American Journal of Men's Health].

Martinez, A. A., **Gil, M.**, Shastri, S. S., & Fietze, G. A. (2025). Trusted Sources of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Information Among Mexican American Parents Living on the U.S./Mexico Border. Target Journal: BMC Public Health

POSTER & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Gil, Michelle., Gbugu, Uchenna O., Herrera, Elida., Martinez, Alyssa A., & Gabriel A. Fietze (2026, April). "COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test: A Bilingual Intervention to Increase Self-Efficacy and Intentions," Poster, 47th Annual Society of Behavioral Medicine Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Martinez, Alyssa A., **Gil, Michelle.**, Herrera, Elida., Olivas, Mark., Cox, Jessika., Martinez-Valenzuela, Paola., Garza, Valerie., & Fietze, Gabriel A. (2026, April). "Navigating Trust: Health Information Sources for Today's College Students," Poster, 47th Annual Society of Behavioral Medicine Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Gil, Michelle., Oralia, Loza., Stone, Amy L., Robinson, Brandon Andrew., (2025, September). "Gender and Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Outcomes in Sexual and Gender

Minority (SGM) Youth and Young Adults in Texas and California, 2022-2024." Poster Presentation, University of Texas at El Paso – EPNG.

Gil, Michelle., Gbugu, Uchenna O., Mancera, Bibiana., & Frietze, Gabriel., (2024, August). "COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test: A Bilingual Intervention to Increase Self-Efficacy and Intentions." Poster Presentation, University of Texas at El Paso - Health Sciences and Nursing Building Lobby.

Gil, Michelle., Herrera, Elida., Martinez, Alyssa., & Frietze, Gabriel., (2022, November). "Understanding COVID-19 Immunization Perceptions." Poster Presentation, University of Texas at El Paso - Health Sciences and Nursing Building Lobby.

Herrera, Elida., **Gil, Michelle.**, Martinez, Alyssa., & Frietze, Gabriel., (2022, November). "Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Perceptions: The Role of Family Attitudes and Opinions." Poster Presentation, University of Texas at El Paso - Health Sciences and Nursing Building Lobby.

FUNDING, AWARDS, & HONORS

Travel Funding Recipient

Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, 2026

- Secured funding support to present research at the 47th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine in Chicago, Illinois

Sandy Tyler Endowed Fellowship in Health Sciences

University of Texas at El Paso
2024

Paula Ford Endowed Scholarship

University of Texas at El Paso
2024

Dean's List for Academic Achievement

University of Texas at El Paso
2020 – 2022

Certificate of Acknowledgement Volunteering Award

Homefree Outreach Prevention Education Initiative Health Fair
2022

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Mixed Methods Research
- Community-Based Research
- Participant Recruitment
- Bilingual Research Communication
- Survey Development and Administration
- Focus Group Facilitation
- Data Collection and Management

- Research Data Management
- Quantitative Data Analysis (SPSS)
- REDCap, QuestionPro
- IRB Protocol Development and Submission
- Research Compliance
- Academic Writing and Research Reporting
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), 2022 – Present
- Human Subjects Research (CITI), 2024 – 2027
- Responsible Conduct of Research (CITI), 2022 – 2026
- Administering NARCAN Training, 2024

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Students for Public Health — President (2023–2024), Member (2022–2024)
- Eta Sigma Gamma — Vice President (2023–2024), Member (2022–2024)
- Bring Awareness to Mental Health — Member (2023-2024)
- American Conservation Coalition — Member (2023-2024)

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

- Trans Visibility Day
- National Public Health Week: Picks Up for Public Health
- Flu Clinic at UTEP
- H.O.P.E. + Fair
- Kelly Center for Hunger Relief
- Food Pantry Compassionate Care Fair
- El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank
- Center Against Sexual and Family Violence
- SISD Mother-Daughter Conference
- Rescue Mission BBQ
- Recovery Rally