

JANNA A. BALASBAS

NEUROSCIENCE • LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY • CROSS-CULTURAL MENTORSHIP

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EDUCATION

B.S. in Neuroscience | Brigham Young University | Provo, UT Expected Apr 2028

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Nielsen Lab, Brigham Young University | Provo, UT Aug 2026-Present

- Complete structured lab onboarding and coordinate with senior lab members for project placement, research training, and initial project work.
- Organize research literature, notes, and source materials in preparation for contributions to ongoing neuroscience projects.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Cebuano Instructor | Center for Language Studies, Brigham Young University | Provo, UT Aug 2026-Present

- Design and teach Cebuano 330: Advanced Proficiency Through Cultural Studies for returned missionaries with prior Cebuano-speaking experience.
- Build discussion-based lessons and assessments that connect advanced language practice with Philippine history, geography, food, art, music, and major life events.

In-Field Mentor | Missionary Training Center | Remote / Provo, UT Sep 2025-Aug 2026

- Led recurring one-on-one and companionship mentoring sessions for missionaries serving in Japan, Mongolia, Guam, and other Asia-area assignments.
- Observed teaching, facilitated role-plays, and coached listening, planning, finding, and extending individualized invitations using Preach My Gospel.
- Managed a multi-companionship caseload across international time zones; documented progress and coordinated follow-up through Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Acuity, and AtWork.

CLINICAL & SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Hospital Volunteer | Yale New Haven Hospital | New Haven, CT Jun-Jul 2026

- Restocked clinical supplies, organized equipment and port kits, prepared patient-care areas, and completed laboratory and supply runs in support of hospital staff.
- Escorted patients and visitors, responded to unit requests, and collaborated with nurses, pharmacists, and fellow volunteers.

Full-Time Missionary | Philippines Quezon City North Mission | Philippines Apr 2021-Nov 2022

- Taught individuals and small groups in Cebuano, Tagalog, and English, adapting instruction to varied cultural backgrounds and learning needs.
- Served as Sister Training Leader, trainer, media referral secretary, and Technology Council Chairperson; mentored 10+ sister missionaries and trained 60+ missionaries in digital tools, communication, and planning.

LEADERSHIP & HONORS

International Student Representative | BYU Student Advisory Council 2024-2025

West Honors Scholarship | Brigham Young University 2025

SKILLS

Languages: Cebuano and Tagalog (native); English (fluent)

Research & Teaching: Literature review, research documentation, data organization, lesson design, assessment development, cross-cultural facilitation

Digital Tools: Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Acuity, AtWork