

My name is Leonardo Casillas, I am a former student of the Ayala ACES program class of 2020 and now am a liaison engineer for Northrop Grumman. The ACES program introduced me to the fundamentals of engineering and reinforced my passion to pursue a career in engineering. The capstone class is where I had my first taste of the design process, which I am still hooked on. After high school, I went to Cal Poly Pomona graduating with my bachelor's degree in Aerospace engineering just last year in 2024. I was able to leverage many of the skills from high school to hit college running. While in college I had many opportunities to apply my knowledge like the Northrop Grumman Collaboration project and winning the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 23-24 design competition. I was very fortunate to secure an internship with NG as a system engineer in my final year at school where I worked on requirement validation. I now work as a liaison engineer where I make repairs and modifications to the aircraft structure when things don't go as planned during manufacturing.