

# Catherine Abou-Khalil

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## EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Concentration: International Relations; GPA: 3.9 (May 2020)

Double Minor: Arabic Studies and Writing

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Summa Cum Laude 2020

Research Excellence 2020

Outstanding Academic Achievement 2020

Best Delegation 2020 (Model United Nations)

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society 2019

Distinguished Delegate 2019 (Model United Nations)

UML Honors College 2018-2020

Roger Cressey Endowment Fund Award recipient 2018

Dean's List 2016 – 2020

## ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Emerging Scholars Program (with Professor Jenifer Whitten-Woodring), UML** September 2019-Present  
Research Assistant

- Review literature about Myanmar's media freedom and lack thereof and how Facebook impacts tensions and violence between the various ethnic groups.
- Analyze and code for trust and distrust of various news sources in one on one and focus group interviews in NVivo software program conducted by research team members in Myanmar.

**Model United Nations, UML**

Delegate January 2019-May 2020

- Represent a country in a Model United Nations conference in Europe and defend country's position in formal debate.
- Represent an Arab-speaking nation in an Arab League simulation and defend country's position.
- Collaborate with delegates to draft a resolution with the policies and solutions that we propose.
- Chair and coordinate a committee for UMass Lowell's Model United Nations conference held for high school students.

Secretary

- Lead communications within the club and keep records of correspondence.
- Coordinate, develop, and direct backroom of a crisis committee for UMass Lowell's Crisis Conference for high school students.

**Independent Study (with Professor John Cluverius), UML** January 2019 -Present

- Analyzed and coded 2017 Google Trends Data in Stata on interest in single-payer healthcare in the United States with states bordering Canada as the most significant variable and reviewed literature on cross-border policy diffusions.
- Co-authored academic paper "Cross-Border Diffusion: Interest in Single-Payer Healthcare in the American States."
- Presented at the State Politics and Policy Conference at the University of Maryland in June 2019.
- Editing in preparation for submission.

**Honors Fellowship (with Professor Ardeth Thawngmung), UML** February-October 2019

- Conducted study on the Homework Help Program at a non-profit organization serving Burmese refugee in Lowell called SayDaNar Community Development Center.

- Created a folder system to collect students' work and tracked their progress through "student progress" sheets I developed, as well as implementing new learning activities and methods.
- Reviewed literature and wrote a paper, "Assessment of Refugee Students' Learning," about improving learning environment for adolescents and refugees and on how to increase student learning motivation.
- Presented at the Honors College in October 2019.

**Honors Research (with Professor Deina Abdelkader), UML**

September-December 2018

- Wrote paper, "Western Perceptions of MENA Women in the Media" and presented semester long research on the representation of Middle Eastern and North African women in western media during pre-colonial times, colonial times, and neo-colonial times.

**SKILLS**

**Language Skills**

English

- Native Speaker, Writer, and Reader
- Writing Minor

Arabic

- Fluent Speaker
- Proficient Writing and Reading
- Arabic Studies Minor
- Four Semesters of Arabic and Culture courses
- Tri-lingual Household

French

- Rudimentary Level Speaker, Writer, and Reader
- Tri-lingual Household
- Self-Taught

**Computer Skills**

- Stata
- NVivo
- SPSS

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Northeast Arc, Danvers, MA**

March 2012-Present

Personal Care Assistant

- Provide individual with profound physical and intellectual disabilities with daily living activities and needs, such as medications.
- Ensure safe environment for patients.

**SayDaNar Community Development Center, Lowell, MA**

Volunteer Coordinator

May 2018 – July 2019

- Led the after-school homework help program for Burmese refugee children, tutored students, and recorded their attendance.
- Recruited volunteers, conducted background checks, and recorded attendance.
- Managed budget for the program and organized events for the children such as field days.

Student Curriculum Supervisor

January- July 2019

- Determined learning curriculum for individual students based off of literature about learning and by reviewing students' work.
- Tracked students' academic progress and kept record of students' work.