

President: Thomas Poitevin (he/him)  
Co Vice-President: Angela Abarca-Perez (she/her)  
Co Vice-President: Jacob Diehl (he/him)



## Together We Thrive

We, Thomas, Angie, and Jacob, are running as GSU officers for the academic year 2024-2025. Hailing from the Colleges of Arts and Letters, Engineering and Sciences, we aim to represent all Graduate students in the best of our capacities. Our vision is articulated around three key objectives:

### 1. Swimming Upstream

Our first objective is to make GSG more efficient at representing all graduate students. This consists in pursuing the work done in the previous term and **maintaining sound relationships with Notre Dame administration**, the Graduate School's Dean Office, and all Colleges. It is our priority to continue to promote a better standard of living for graduate students by **advocating for issues important to graduate students** including more competitive stipends, comprehensive health care and safer working conditions on campus. The work of our past chairs have shown that being together we can accomplish great things.

We aim to **improve the efficiency of the GSG** through better communication between the representatives of the departments and the committee chairs by implementing a more structured working plan with goals and progress check-ins. We will ensure **full transparency** between the objectives of each committee, as well as the financial resources to **ensure that the budget is allocated consciously**, and monitor the workload of each student. We want to build a creative, productive and successful team that meets the graduate needs while prioritizing the mental well-being and managing the workload of our volunteers.

### 2. Work like a Champion today!

Our second objective is to make Notre Dame a safer workplace for every graduate student, which includes providing more opportunities for the professional development of every student, and improving the following:

- **Safe workplace:** We intend to meet with the Office of Institutional Equity and increase awareness of existing resources (Sexual and Discriminatory Harassment Policy, Respectful Environment Policy) and of by-stander interventions (Speak Up). We also aim to create safe places by college where graduate students would be listened to, be able to share their concerns and receive advice on their situations.
- **Teaching in good conditions:** Creating optimal teaching conditions involves implementing training programs for teaching assistants and soon-to-be professors. We aim to collaborate with the Kaneb Center and advocate for tailored training opportunities within each college or department, including mentorship programs to support educators in their professional development, as well as raising awareness of the existing programs.

- **Accessibility and accommodation:** Our vision also encompasses improving accessibility and enhancing resources for people with disabilities. We aim to collaborate with the Sara Bea Center to seek better accommodations tailored to all students. We will look for ASL training for the GSG welcoming committees and representatives.

### 3. Your research matters, your life too!

The third objective is to improve the quality of life of the graduate students elevating the experience of living under the Dome. In this spirit, we are committed to further nurturing equity and diversity in religion, genders, ethnicities, and more. Additionally, we will continue to advocate for the mental and physical well-being of the students and their families. Our objectives include:

- **Life on campus:** Our vision is to cultivate a diverse and inclusive campus community enriching the student experience through active engagement with various associations. To achieve this, we are committed to enhancing communication channels to ensure students are well-informed about events organized by the graduate student groups/clubs. Moreover, we aspire to integrate spouses in graduate student clubs. Additionally, we aim to bring up a sense of camaraderie among graduate students by promoting multicultural and cross-community social gatherings.
- **Better integration for international students and spouses:** Our objective is to foster a sense of belonging at Notre Dame creating a welcoming environment for families from around the globe. We are committed to supporting international students in their transition by advocating for tailored resources, such as tax consultation services for their needs. Additionally, we aim to build upon the efforts of the Family Resource Center by revitalizing programs like English and USA immersion classes for spouses.
- **Embracing South Bend:** Our goal is to foster partnerships with local programs and events, spotlighting the vibrant offerings of South Bend. We seek to encourage graduate student groups to engage with the broader community by participating in activities such as those hosted at Howard Park, the public library, and the Farmer's Market, building a stronger connection between Notre Dame and South Bend.

If you have an idea or would like to discuss our vision, please let us know by sending an email to [tpoitevi@nd.edu](mailto:tpoitevi@nd.edu).

### **Thomas's Biography:**

Thomas is a 2nd year PhD student in economics. His research focuses on the implications of household heterogeneity in the transmission of economic policies. Before joining Notre Dame in 2022, Thomas worked at the European Central Bank in the Fiscal Policies division. Originally from France, Thomas was a member of the European Youth Parliament, a non-partisan youth organization that empowers young people by offering a platform to debate current issues. He presided over the organization from 2020 to 2022, supervising a team of 50 volunteers, and managing a yearly budget of \$250,000. He developed skills in event organization and public relations. Within the Department of Economics, Thomas is a member of the Graduate Student Committee that is in charge of organizing weekly seminars and other social events for Econ grad students. Thomas joined the GSG this year to represent his department and actively participates in its discussions. Fun facts about him: Thomas speaks four languages and likes baking. You will also find him every Wednesday at Ironhand bar dancing salsa and bachata!

### **Angie's Biography:**

Angela, known as Angie, is a 4th year PhD candidate in environmental engineering in the CEEES Department. She works with drinking water treatment, focusing on the use of membranes to treat hazardous “unseen” contaminants. While at Notre Dame, she has been involved in the Graduate Society of Women Engineers as the professional co-chair and later as the Vicepresident. She is also the Social Chair of the Latin American Students Unidos, where she has organized several events for graduate students including the Posada and the Dia de Muertos First Friday Dinner, as well as outreach events such as the STEM Day in Chicago, where latin students will present a workshop for a local middle school in La Villita. Currently, she is a proud member of LASER's cohort, where she is developing a “best practices manual” for mentoring undergraduate students at the laboratory. One of her favorite hobbies is making “design” things, either watercolor painting or digital drawing. You might spot many of her designs in LASU and GradSWE. She also loves dancing zumba at Howard Park every Thursday, you should try one of the classes they are free!

### **Jacob's Biography:**

Introducing Jacob Diehl, a 3rd-year PhD candidate studying biochemistry. Jacob's research fits into the field of protein folding, where he is working on disentangling the processes involved in protein homeostasis. Originally from the picturesque landscapes of Idaho, Jacob thoroughly enjoys outdoor activities like camping and hiking. When not working on laboratory pursuits, Jacob also spends his free time playing video games and board games with friends and family. Jacob is also an active participant in the LASER program at Notre Dame, where he is currently developing many skill sets pertinent to leadership. As part of his participation in LASER, Jacob is involved in organizing the 17th Midwest Conference on Protein Folding, a regional conference hosted annually at Notre Dame. Specifically, he is organizing a panel discussion where prominent researchers in the protein folding field come together to discuss practical approaches to foster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their academic programs. Within the Notre Dame Biophysics Club, Jacob assumes the role of treasurer. In addition to handling the club's finances, he helps with planning events that foster professional development and community for any graduate students interested in biophysics.