



**Carlos Robles**  
**Saint Xavier University**  
**ACI General Scholarship**



Carlos Robles will graduate with a degree in finance from [Saint Xavier University](#) in December 2021 -- earlier than he expected, thanks in part to an ACI General Scholarship. What led him to a career in finance began with a job in a Chicago-area grocery chain. Born in Ecuador, Robles came to the United States as an infant with his older sisters and his mother, Luz. The family lives in Chicago.

"I actually got into finance because right after high school," Robles said. "I got a job at Jewel-Osco, in the meat market. I just took my manager's advice and kept progressing. A year or two after I started, he started showing me the financial world of the meat market, and I started learning about the numbers about margin, profit, advertising and all that comes with finance. I just took a love for it." He also earned a promotion to assistant manager in the department.

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Robles' mentor told him about Saint Xavier, its affordable tuition, and small classes, which he preferred. After attending a community college, Robles transferred to Saint Xavier in 2019, and began taking classes in finance. A first-generation college student, he says it's important to him to earn a degree because of the sacrifices his mother made. "She had to leave her country and everything behind and come here and give us the life that she wanted, a better life," Robles says. "I just stay focused and maintain the end goal, which is to graduate and show my mom that all the sacrifices that she did, all the things she went through, it was worth it at the end." Robles will soon join his three sisters soon as the family's fourth college graduate. Robles has already interviewed at a few companies, looking for a diverse organization that helps build communities, he said.

Robles was awarded his ACI General Scholarship after inquiring with the financial aid staff about scholarships. The scholarship provided funds at a time when his family was struggling after his mother got laid off from her job as a hotel chef. Robles and his sisters contributed funds from their jobs to help with household expenses. "It (the scholarship) helped immensely. I was grateful for that. Because in the times of Covid, it was much appreciated," Robles said. The ACI scholarship helped Robles meet tuition expenses earlier this year, and it enabled him to save funds for summer classes. Finishing those classes made it possible for him to graduate one semester early.

Robles expressed his appreciation to the donors who made his scholarship possible. "I was in a situation where I felt at times whether I could further my education or I had to take a break from my education," he said. "It's going to help someone who truly wants to better themselves, and get out of where they are now and improve their life overall."

At Saint Xavier, Robles is part of the Alpha organization for students who are Latino. He continues to work at Jewel-Osco, and wants to stay and work in the Chicago area after graduation.