

# Laura Valencia

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## SUMMARY

Passionate culinary professional dedicated to delivering high-quality dishes while excelling in fast-paced kitchen environments. Bringing over 5 years of diverse cooking experience with a focus on teamwork and communication. Strives for culinary excellence through efficient workflows, meticulously checks ingredient quality, and maintains an impeccably organized workspace. Capable in various cooking techniques, including sautéing, grilling, and baking. Committed to upholding sanitation standards while fostering collaboration among the kitchen staff. Eager to contribute talents and energy to Culinary Haven, enriching guests' dining experiences with delightful meals.

## EXPERIENCE

Line Cook

March 2024 - Present

Culinary Arts Kitchen

Houston, TX

Serves as key member of a busy kitchen team responsible for exceptional daily food production. Supports menu execution, ensures cleanliness, and incorporates efficient ordering processes to optimize inventory management.

- Managed preparation of workstations, ensuring timely production during high-demand service peaks.
- Executed diverse cooking techniques to consistently deliver high-quality, visually appealing dishes.
- Encouraged collaboration among kitchen staff, resulting in effective communication and a positive environment.
- Maintained kitchen hygiene, diligently following sanitation protocols for a clean operation.
- Streamlined inventory checks and orders, reinforcing optimal stock levels for timely meal prep.
- Guided new employees by sharing best practices for food preparation and operational procedures.

Cook

January 2022 - February 2024

Gourmet Eats

San Antonio, TX

Contributed culinary skills in a renowned kitchen known for exciting flavors. Managed menu items while ensuring adherence to quality standards and fostering a collaborative culture.

- Utilized various cooking methods to ensure consistency in flavor and presentation across menu offerings.
- Led food presentation efforts, crafting appealing dishes that enhanced guests' dining experiences.
- Operated kitchen equipment, conducting regular maintenance checks for optimal efficiency.
- Performed ingredient quality inspections, guaranteeing freshness and compliance with health regulations.
- Collaborated in menu planning sessions, providing creative input for new seasonal dishes.
- Built strong rapport with kitchen staff, promoting positive interpersonal dynamics and teamwork.

Prep Cook

June 2020 - December 2021

Fresh Ingredients Bistro

Austin, TX

Played integral role in a high-volume kitchen, engaging in food prep, during peak hours and supporting head chef's vision for weekly specials.

- Assisted in efficiently preparing ingredients and setting up cooking stations for daily operations.
- Followed strict sanitation standards, maintaining operational cleanliness throughout kitchen areas.
- Supported head chef by preparing daily specials and meeting set quality thresholds.
- Conducted inventory tracking, assisting in timely supply procurement aligned with ongoing needs.
- Trained junior kitchen staff in foundational food preparation techniques and proper safety protocols.
- Engaged with patrons, actively seeking feedback to improve culinary offerings.

## LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- ServSafe Food Handler Certification, awarded in 2021
- Culinary Techniques Certification, achieved in 2020

## EDUCATION

Culinary Arts Diploma

2020

Austin Culinary School GPA: 3.8

Austin, TX

Coursework: Culinary Techniques, Food Safety, Kitchen Management, Menu Planning

## CERTIFICATIONS

- ServSafe Food Handler 📅 2021

- Culinary Techniques 📅 2020

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Cooking Techniques:** Grilling, Sautéing, Baking
- **Kitchen Tools:** Oven, Grill, Blender
- **Food Safety Standards:** HACCP, ServSafe, Sanitation Guidelines
- **Team Communication:** Daily Briefings, Team Huddles, Collaborative Decision-Making
- **Inventory Systems:** FIFO, Stock Auditing, Ordering Platforms
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Calibration, Regular Inspections, Repairs
- **Digital Tools:** POS Systems, Recipe Management Software, Scheduling Applications
- **Presentation Techniques:** Garnishing, Plating Strategies, Visual Appeal Focus
- **Time Management:** Shift Planning, Priority Setting, Task Delegation
- **Customer Service:** Direct Engagement, Feedback Collection, Dining Experience Enhancement

## SKILLS

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- Culinary Techniques
- Food Safety & Sanitation
- Inventory Management
- Kitchen Equipment Operation
- Team Collaboration
- Menu Development

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- Member of Texas Chef Association since 2021
- Volunteered at local food bank, engaging in community outreach initiatives

## LANGUAGES

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- English (Native)
- Spanish (Proficient)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Work Status** : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

## REFERENCES

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AVAILABLE ON REQUEST