

Alexander Branch

UCLA Fast Track

My name is Alex Branch and I am from San Diego, California. I graduated from Mission Bay High School and plan to graduate from UCLA in 2025 with a B.S. in Computer Engineering. When taking a break from technology, I love going to the beach, playing water polo, snowboarding, and wake surfing. I also enjoy playing guitar, reading non-fiction, attending social events, and meeting new people.

My interest in engineering and design started at a young age – I loved building things – from wooden toys to duct tape wallets. I first learned about computer programming in fourth grade when my teacher encouraged us to explore the computer programming section of Khan Academy. Using their modified JavaScript, my friend and I created a game that landed on the front page of this site and got hundreds of ‘likes’. During my freshman year of high school, I was fortunate to find a mentor in my engineering instructor, an accomplished electrical engineer. Under his guidance, I grew to love the design process. Through engineering clubs, competitions, and winning designathons, I knew that engineering was what I wanted to do.

Through my UCLA coursework, I have discovered an even deeper passion for software engineering. I am most interested in signal processing and machine learning. I enjoy taking classes to expand my horizons and push beyond my comfort zone.

At UCLA, I have been lucky to be involved in many activities. During freshman year, I participated in the IEEE Micromouse project and learned about schematic design, sensors, programming, and algorithms. This year I joined Professor Greg Pottie’s research lab where we investigate causal modeling and machine learning, and I have got to build and deploy my own models.

After receiving my B.S., I plan to pursue a M.S. in computer science to further my education and work on the frontier of innovation. Eventually, I plan to shift my focus to management, as I find joy in solving complex problems through working as a team, and I am attracted to the bigger decision-making associated with a management role.

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