Alexander Branch

UCLA Fast Track
Student of the Month

About Me
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.

My Interests
In my free time, 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.

Why UCLA
The Fast Track program and the benefits it provides, like the research opportunities, are one of the main reasons I decided to attend UCLA. The large student body and talented faculty also provide a unique opportunity to learn from experts, find my niche, and work with other passionate individuals. I enjoy going to school in a city where I can make meaningful connections that will propel me into, and carry me through, my career.

What am I Involved in on Campus
I play water polo with UCLA's club team, attending practice several times per week and competing against other west coast schools. I am also a member of IEEE, working on the Micromouse project. The club reminds me of a club I founded in high school, where we worked on passion projects. Although not yet a member, I plan to look into ACM, as my interest is shifting more towards software than hardware.

My Career Plans
I plan to get my B.S. in Computer Engineering and M.S. in Computer Science through UCLA's 4+1 program. My primary plan is to work in industry for several years to gain a better understanding of the field. From there, I plan to follow one of two paths. I may remain in industry, but 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. I am also considering attending law school and studying patent law to utilize my technical knowledge of Computer Engineering to work with a team prosecuting or defending violations of intellectual property rights.