

Brandon Hsu Fast Track Profile

Hello there! My name is Brandon Hsu and I am from Orange County, California. From a young age, I have always had a passion to create and program. I started off with basic visualized programming languages and originally wanted to become a game developer. I learned how to use Photoshop and Illustrator to design game assets and even did commission artwork. Over time, I have made dozens of projects, entered the Ludum Dare Game Jam, and worked with developers in Spain and Finland on indie games. I drafted ideas, created backgrounds and sprite sheets using Photoshop, brought the characters to life with C++, and witnessed the elation from people playing my games.

But on the side, I started experimenting with Arduino and other microcontrollers. I found working with electronics fascinating! High school provided me the opportunities necessary to advance these interests into a career. My junior year physics teacher previously worked as an RF product engineer at a major semiconductor company. To say she was inspiring does not serve her justice. She taught beyond the curriculum and reached out to her connections for engaging projects and research opportunities. The most memorable one involved one of NASA's outreach programs: Science Heads. Months passed as my team constructed the project from the ground up; SparkFun and Elegoo electronics surrounded us as we 3D printed components, soldered, and programmed in C++. No other experience can emulate the thrill of collaborating with others.

At UCLA, I plan to seek out my passions and opportunities further. From the IEEE aircopter project to ACM AI and Bruin visual arts, the wealth of activities seems limitless. I cannot wait to deepen my knowledge of mathematics and its applications on electrical engineering projects. Looking forward, I hope to secure a research or internship position to rapidly develop my knowledge of the subject. Both an academic perspective and industry mindset will help my personal growth as a student. But ultimately from the view of a freshman, opportunity feels everywhere; there is never a dull moment in my day in working towards my goals. I am thankful for UCLA engineering, and I am thrilled for the next four years!