

Caroline Chen

Class of 2029

Hello! My name is Caroline Chen, and I'm from San Jose in the Bay Area. There, I attended BASIS Independent Silicon Valley for high school, where classes helped me build a strong foundation in STEM and technology, eventually leading me onto the path of engineering. Outside of school, I enjoy baking desserts, folding origami, working on various crafts/DIYs, and hanging out with friends.



I've always been drawn to STEM because it combines problem-solving and creativity, two of my favorite things. Engineering seemed like the perfect way to apply both, and over the summers of my sophomore and junior years in high school, I embarked on various engineering projects that helped me solidify my decision to major in EE. For one of these projects, I designed and built a fully functional wearable eye-warmer using e-textiles and e-sewing, giving me insight into the challenges of designing human-centered technology.

Over time, I became especially interested in semiconductors and their role in powering modern technology. In high school, I co-founded the Research in Semiconductors and AI club, where I mentored peers on projects and built a community for student-led research. I also conducted a research project on semiconductor fabrication, and I hope to continue developing this research interest while studying at UCLA.

I chose UCLA's ECE program because of the balance between freedom and resources. When I visited campus on Bruin Day, the makerspace left a lasting impression on me, as it felt like a space where students could turn ideas into reality, backed by faculty and peers who value innovation. I knew it was the kind of environment where I could grow not only as a student, but as a creator.

In the future, I hope to continue working in semiconductors and/or integrated circuits, with the goal of developing longstanding technologies that benefit everyday people while advancing global progress.