

Chandra Suresh

UCLA Fast Track Student of the Month

Interviewed by Michael Huang



Hometown: Culver City, CA
High School: Culver City High School
Siblings: Gopi (older brother)

When did you know you wanted to be a computer engineer/what influenced your choice of academic field?

When I was younger, I was always fascinated with physics and mathematics. As I grew up, I became interested in coding and hardware. During high school, I was on the robotics team and had the opportunity to directly see applied electrical engineering. This combination of theoretical and practical experience drew me into the field.



Why did you choose UCLA ECE?

Fast Track is an amazing opportunity that heavily influenced my college decision. I had planned to do research in college, and the SURP program was a perfect opportunity to get involved in a research lab.

What are you interested in as a career?

I am still currently deciding between working in the private sector, and getting a PhD. I have decided to pursue the groundwork for both career paths, so that I can make a more informed decision later in my college journey.



How has your campus experience been like?

The campus experience has been great, even though I was only able to experience two quarters there. The food is definitely a highlight—especially Covell. The UCLA culture is very laid back, which I like a lot. This university is particularly large, with about 20,000 people. In a way, that just adds to the unique experience of living in a ripe melting pot, full of diversity of people and thought. There are also lots of great club communities, both academic and non-academic.



What was your SURP experience like?

In retrospect, I'm glad I made this decision, because not only did I receive a rich research experience in those 10 weeks, I was able to permanently join my research lab as well. This is because the SURP program got my foot in the door, and allowed me the opportunity to develop a strong working relationship with my professor, Achuta Kadambi, and several graduate students. This has set me on the critical path of working towards a PhD.



What are some of your outside hobbies?

I like going on long bike rides along the beach— something I've been able to do quite often recently, thanks to COVID. I also enjoy reading books (currently Brandon Sanderson's fantasy trilogies), and like watching movies.

