

Hi! My name is Derek Hua and I'm majoring in computer engineering. I was born and raised in Mountain View, California (Bay Area) and I attended Los Altos High School.

I've always liked engineering from a young age where I played with Lego and really enjoyed building stuff with my own hands. In high school, I joined my school's FIRST Robotics team which was my first taste of real engineering. Through robotics I learned how to use Solidworks, 3d printing, laser cutting, and more. I really enjoyed competing with our robot against other high school teams and becoming close friends with my teammates. In my junior year I was the co-design lead and my favorite experience was going to the world championships in Houston and meeting other teams from all over the world! My senior year I was promoted to captain but our season was cut short.

During the summers of my Junior and Senior years I was fortunate enough to intern at Abbott Diabetes Care where I got to experience industry engineering. It was really exciting seeing how much went into embedded design and learning more about it. In my junior year I helped the quality engineering department diagnose defective sensors and my senior year I wrote python scripts to parse data. This helped me solidify that I wanted to major in computer engineering in college so I could pursue both hardware and programming.

Currently at UCLA, I am involved in IEEE where I'm working on micromouse. This project really interested me as it combined both electrical engineering and programming and seemed like the natural continuation of high school robotics. Through micromouse I'm learning about PCB design and C programming. Next quarter and during my sophomore year I hoped to get more involved in clubs on campus. Overall, I'm super passionate about engineering as I believe that through engineering I can contribute to solutions to real world problems.