



Esha Thota

FAST TRACK CO 2024

Where are you from? Where did you go to high school?

Folsom, California

My parents immigrated to the United States from India in the 90s, and moved all around the country before settling in California! Perhaps that's passed on to me; I've travelled a lot, but California is definitely still my favorite place.

Folsom High School

I went to Folsom High School. I was very lucky to participate in their engineering program, which opened a lot of doors for me in terms of realizing what I wanted to do. I was able to experiment with many different fields, and I'm very grateful for the exposure I had to various types of engineering throughout high school.

What made you decide to study CE?

I was heavily involved in STEM subjects throughout high school, and I eventually decided to major in computer engineering because of its versatility and what seem like endless opportunities. I'd like to get involved in just about everything!

What has been your favorite project experience?

Through UCLA IEEE, I participated in the Micromouse project, and with my partner, was able to complete a maze-solving robot that used IR sensing and a floodfill algorithm to autonomously navigate a 6x6 maze :)

What made you choose UCLA?

I chose UCLA for the collaborative, open environment. You often hear horror stories about the cutthroat nature of top rate schools, but everyone I spoke to about UCLA indicated quite the opposite. I can now attest to the truth of that- everyone is kind, helpful and caring- studying together, answering each other's questions, etc. I feel that the community works to help everyone succeed.

What do you like most about Fast Track?

I've made a lot of friends through Fast Track, and I love that it's a community with so many helpful people, resources, and opportunities. I'm very lucky to be part of it!

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

In my free time, I try to read as much as possible, play tennis, cook something new, listen to new music, and roller skate in my backyard :)

What are you looking forward to?

I'm excited to participate in research this summer, and hopefully to get more experience with hands-on projects!