

Hi! I'm Valen Dunn, a first-year Computer Engineering major in Fast Track and a third-generation Bruin. I've lived in Los Angeles all of my life and attended Viewpoint School in Calabasas.

Initially, in my school career, all I was interested in was physics. But as I entered 8th grade, I enrolled in my first computer science class and found a new passion. After we studied binary search trees, I was hooked for good. Later in high school, I found a new way to combine my two interests when I joined FIRST robotics and explored autonomous control and computer vision. One of my happiest, academic moments was when I stood with my team watching our robot autonomously and successfully move around a field at a FRC competition. That was when I knew I wanted to study computer engineering in college.

At UCLA, besides enjoying my classes, I have already joined clubs that align with my interests. I have participated in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' micromouse competition, where I developed an autonomous maze exploring robot. I have also joined the Association of Computing Machinery's AI projects in the winter quarter to explore the practical application of computer vision. Lastly, I have joined the Unmanned Aerial Systems' IEEE competition team, where I am developing object avoidance for an autonomous drone. If that's what happens in the first quarter, I can't wait to see what the next four years will bring at UCLA!