

Hello there! My name is Grace and I'm a first-year at UCLA, where I'm studying Electrical Engineering (and potentially minoring in Gender Studies).

My first taste of engineering was in high school, when I was the software captain on my robotics team. I loved using code to express my analytical thinking and seeing the results of my work manifest on the robot that was in front of me.

But as I gained more experience in engineering, I found myself questioning what exactly happens after I type letters on a screen — how does the compiler turn the code into binary, then how does the processor make sense of it, then how do the electrons move, the semiconductors activate just so, such that what I input to the digital space transforms into a physical motion in the real world? How a flood of tiny electrons results in computations that are complex beyond my imagination. Electrical engineering is like magic, and I want to demystify it for myself.

With that said, I'm still very excited by code; in fact, one of my proudest achievements so far is in pure software engineering. Last summer, I volunteered with a new health clinic that aimed to provide hundreds of free COVID-19 tests per week, an important and urgent need. But we didn't have the means for this — there's a long administrative process we needed to complete for each patient tested. We realized this called for software automation. So, I stepped up to build a software solution. In just over a month, I developed a HIPAA-compliant Python application that uses API's to automate administrative processes that save our staff dozens of hours each week.

So yeah, in terms of my career direction, I don't have it all figured out yet because as of now, my interests are both deep and broad in software and hardware. What I do know is that I will continue to build upon my entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to social impact, and steadfast love of learning.

Currently, the fields that fascinate me most are robotics, signal theory, and software engineering. I'm getting involved with BruinRacing Supermileage, Society of Women Engineers' Lobbying Committee, and DevX's BruinBot project. There's a lot to look forward to!