

Krishna Minocha

UCLA Fast Track Student of the Month

Hometown: Saratoga

High School: Saratoga High School

Interests Outside of School: Cooking, dancing, singing, and working out.

Why did you choose to major in Computer Engineering?

After exploring many different fields in high school, I felt Computer Engineering would allow me to explore a combination of all my interests.

In high school, I was an integral electrical member for my school's robotics team. I really enjoyed working with all the electrical components and spending time in the lab debugging. I also did a software internship in cybersecurity after my sophomore year, where I designed a web platform for company employees to access data. Additionally, in a summer program after junior year, I designed and built an assistive device for the blind to help them shop and increase their independence. This experience really got me interested in IoT and the applications of technology to create a meaningful impact. All these experiences led me to Computer Engineering, which will give me an opportunity to study topics related to all these fields.



Why did you choose to attend UCLA?

The Fast Track program influenced my decision greatly. With this program I knew that I would get research after my first year, and have an automatic group of friends. I attended an extremely competitive high school, so I found the collaborativeness of UCLA to be a welcome change of pace. UCLA also has a great Gender Studies program and Bhangra (Indian folk dance) team. I am now minoring in Gender studies and am part of Bruin Bhangra!

How are you involved at UCLA?

I'm involved with Building Engineers and Mentors (BEAM), a club that brings STEM education to underserved schools in LA. In this club, I help with curriculum planning and teaching, and also serve as the Social Chair. I'm also on the Bruin Bhangra team, a cultural competitive Indian dance team. Lastly, I'm the Advocacy and Wellness Chair for IEEE WATT (Women Advancing Technology through Teamwork) for this upcoming year! I've greatly enjoyed participating in HogWATTs mentorship and learning new concepts in IEEE workshops.

If you couldn't be an engineer, what other career would you like to pursue?

I would probably work in social advocacy or education. I am currently teaching as a part of BEAM, and in high school, I enjoyed teaching and fostering girls' interest in STEM, so teaching feels like a natural choice for me!

Why did you choose to minor in Gender Studies?

In my freshman year of high school, after personally experiencing gender-based discrimination as a woman in STEM, I decided to learn more about advocacy to support both myself and others. I partnered with my local County Office of Women's policy to put on two Strong Girls, Strong Women conferences for over 300 girls and their allies. I led workshops ranging from Art and Activism to Minority Empowerment. I was also able to meet many different people and to learn about how to advocate for change. Now, at UCLA, I'm excited to keep that spirit alive by minoring in Gender Studies!