

# Fast Track Student of the Month: Max Wang

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**Birthplace:** Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**Hometown:** Thousand Oaks,  
California

**Schooling:** Westlake High School

**Interests:** Running, hiking,  
wrestling, coding, game design, and  
reading



**When did you know you wanted to be an EE?**



I was mostly interested in the sciences in high school, so I knew for sure I wanted to be a STEM major. Coming into UCLA, I wasn't decided on which field I specifically wanted to work in, but since I had done a summer research program at an electrical engineering lab at UCLA, I decided to apply as a major in Electrical Engineering. After being accepted into the Fast Track Program, I made up my mind to stay in Electrical Engineering for my undergraduate education.

## **What has influenced you the most in choice of academic field?**

I was pretty influenced by my family, since both of my parents had worked as electrical engineers. In addition, my grandpa also studied electrical engineering in college, so I suppose I felt compelled to carry on the family tradition in that way. Also, EE just seemed more useful than most of the other majors I was considering.



## **Why did you choose UCLA's EE program?**

My only real choice was between Berkeley's EECS program and UCLA, but UCLA offered me a scholarship, as well as entry into the Fast Track Program, so it was a pretty easy decision for me. Also, the food here is pretty good.



## **How has it been being on a big campus so far?**

I don't think UCLA is too big in terms of area, and I don't really mind big classes. In fact, having a bigger campus provides

many more opportunities and things to try, which is good. I think the

main disadvantages that I've seen of having so many people around is that the lines at the dining halls get pretty long sometimes, and sometimes classes fill up very fast.

### **What are you interested in as a career?**

I'm interested in a lot of fields, and I hope to be able to have a chance to try working in most of them at some point. I think research in sustainable energy and artificial intelligence are both interesting job prospects, but I would also love to look into patent law or a temporary career in game design, given the opportunity.

### **How was your summer research experience?**

This summer, I worked for 8 weeks in the Mesoscopic Optics and Quantum Electronics Lab, where I did some simulations that predicted the effects of localized heating in the microresonators used for frequency comb generation. The project was a little bit difficult for me, since I had to learn how to use Comsol Multiphysics, but was overall a pretty interesting experience in an area I had never got to work in before. I hope to be able to continue my research at that lab throughout the academic year as well.

