

# Michaella Baltazar

Fast Track Student of the Month

*Interviewed by Nathan Atkinson and Pranav Balgi*

**Born:** Los Angeles, California

**High School:** Verdugo Hills High School, Tujunga, California

**Outside Interests:** playing guitar, singing, running, doing makeup

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

I was interested in STEM in high school, so I explored my options for majors related to STEM. I always wanted to have a career that would allow me to show my creative side while also being able to help make people's lives better. I thought EE would give me the best range of options for a career that fit my needs.



**Who has influenced you the most in your choice of your academic field?**

A lot of different people had academic influences on me. For the most part, I went through a lot of trial and error when trying to figure out what I wanted to do in life since there were so many people recommending different studies to me. I think my AP Physics and AP Computer Science had the biggest impact on me because they helped

show me how dynamic EE could be in the professional world. My dad also influenced me; he had told me to become an engineer ever since I was little.

### **Why did you choose the UCLA EE program?**

The UCLA EE program has some of the best resources and academics that provide a lot of great opportunities for me to succeed. Los Angeles is the city I call home, which was also a contributing factor in choosing UCLA. I also wanted to be part of a diverse campus and student body.



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

I am the happiest I've ever been at UCLA. There are a lot of resources and opportunities here to help me flourish academically and progress my career. I also enjoy being able to meet all types of people who have a variety of backgrounds and interests.

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

I want to be able to help people through my career. I chose EE because I wanted to keep doors open for my career options. Currently, I want to go into the biomedical industry. Specifically, I want to use my experience in electrical engineering to be able to help innovate prosthetics for amputees.