

Hello! My name is Nicholas Hamakami, and I am a class of 2024 electrical engineering student. I was born and raised in Kent Washington. While I may not be from California, I am incredibly excited to attend UCLA!

I was always pretty decent at math, but I think my first real passion for engineering stemmed from the AP Physics class I took sophomore year. I know this might sound cliché, but I really did feel a spark within me when I first made those connections between math and real life. As I discovered that my calculations could predict the orbit of the Earth or the behavior of a circuit, it felt like a world of endless possibilities had opened up right before me. After AP Physics, I took some steps to make sure that engineering was truly the path for me – one of the most notable being my involvement in the Washington State Math Council competition.

As for how I ended up here, Fast Track was actually a pretty significant factor in my decision to pursue electrical engineering at UCLA, rather than at other universities. It seemed like a cool program that could help give me a boost. While I haven't actually been on campus, I've been getting involved with IEEE's OPS and ACM Hack's web and mobile development workshops. OPS has been a really fun experience; the projects are all very interesting, and it feels like a practical application of the conceptual material we have been learning in our physics class.

Apart from academics, I enjoy running, basketball, and video games – especially Nintendo ones! The most ambitious goal I would like to complete during university is to finish a triathlon.

Although I don't know how well it would work out because I can't swim for the life of me.

Unfortunately, I haven't felt much of a school connection this year, since a lot of the non-STEM clubs I was planning to join don't feel the same without an in-person connection. Nevertheless, I was absolutely pumped watching our team in the March Madness tournament! I'm very excited to attend UCLA on campus next year. Fingers crossed!

