

Charles Zhang

Class of 2026



Hello! My name is Charles Zhang, an Electrical Engineering Major from San Diego, CA. Currently, my hobbies include rock climbing, badminton, and pickleball. I have also been playing cello for the past nine years, and I am part of the UCLA Symphony.

Why did you choose UCLA ECE?

UCLA was one of my dream schools because of its great reputation and location. Throughout high school, I was always most interested in STEM. In particular, I was drawn towards the hands-on problem solving skills used in engineering. Electrical Engineering was a great option for me because I could balance my interests in computer hardware and software. This allowed me to explore a broader range of engineering topics to find the one I was most passionate about.

How are you involved at UCLA?

I am involved in UCLA IEEE, where I am currently a part of the DAV project, which teaches me the fundamentals of Verilog and FPGA design. Last year, I competed in the Micro-Mouse competition using a self-designed PCB. IEEE has been a great way for me to learn more EE skills outside of the classroom. I am also a tutoring and projects chair in TBP, the engineering honors society. Here, I offer free drop-in tutoring and help plan large TBP events. Lastly, I am part of the UCLA climbing team.

What are your educational and career goals?

My current education goal is to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, and pursue further education with the goal of obtaining either an MS or PhD. I don't have any clear career goals in mind currently, but I'm keeping an eye on the industry and its trends to see which areas I would be interested in.

What projects are you taking on in your own time?

Most of my time has been focused on academics and IEEE projects. However, outside of academics I am working on upgrading my PC, learning the Dvorak Cello Concerto, and projecting some V7's at Cliffs of Id!