

Tristan Lu

Hello! My name is Tristan Lu, and I am a Computer Engineering major in the class of 2029. I grew up in Redondo Beach, a medium-sized city 20 miles south of UCLA, and I graduated from Redondo Union High School. Outside of school, I love playing the piano, watching and listening to musicals, going to amusement parks, collecting frog stuffed animals, walking, reading, cooking, and gaming.



Why Computer Engineering?

I have been interested in software and programming since I was a little kid, especially the way it takes both logic and creativity to make something work. But when I joined my high school's Science Olympiad team, and was exposed to circuits, Arduinos, and other hardware components for the first time, I felt like I had discovered a whole world of new problems to solve and new things to create. I chose Computer Engineering because the combination of software and hardware seemed to offer me the most freedom and opportunities—even when I have no idea what kind of career I want to pursue after college.

I think the people that most influenced my choice of major have been all of the incredible educators I've been lucky enough to have had access to throughout my life—not just at school, but also my parents, piano teachers, and even my favorite YouTubers—that made me love all kinds of learning and problem-solving.

Why UCLA?

I decided to come to UCLA because it was close to home, I loved the campus, and I was excited about the large and diverse student body—the ability to make some like-minded friends as well as meet people that are very different from me. I am really looking forward to both continuing to explore my current interests and trying a ton of new things through the many clubs at this school!