

Vishal Dandamudi

Hometown: San Mateo, California (Foster City specifically)

High school: Aragon

Interests/Hobbies:

In my free time, I enjoy playing (most) sports.



Basketball is my favorite, but pickleball and tennis are also pretty fun. Recently, I've been trying my hand at water polo.

Other things:

- Reading random articles is my biggest time sink (Noema, Atavist, Aeon, Longreads, etc.)
- Chess
- Every now and then, I read a book (most recently Small Things Like These) or watch a short show (most recently Peacemaker Season 2)
- Occasional doomscrolling through NYT Cooking recipes

Why UCLA?

Close to home, great food, nice weather, and a great program. Fast Track also seemed like a pretty cool community to be a part of. Also, lots of cool clubs + kind/helpful people.

Why ECE?

In high school I was obsessed with the idea of neuromorphic computing (basically reverse-engineering the human brain) and I thought computer engineering would be the major best aligned with that interest. These days I'm not specifically obsessed with neuromorphic computing (although it's still very cool), but computer engineering definitely feels like the right major for me.

How have you been involved in UCLA?

1. **Supermileage Vehicle (hydrogen car racing team):** I'm an electrical/finance/web dev person on the UCLA SMV team. It's a lot of fun and I highly recommend joining!
2. **UCLA Campus Events Commission (CEC):** I'm a web developer for CEC which has some pretty nice perks (guaranteed Bruin Bash tickets, advance movie screenings, free movie merch...)
3. **Integrated Sensors Lab:** Currently helping out with research in the Integrated Sensors Laboratory (testing Terahertz sensors/coding simulations/coding testing setups)
4. **UCLA Fielding School of Public Health (Ehrenstein Group):** I do some software engineering for public health studies (mostly Python scripts. Some R here and there).

What are your educational and/or career goals?

From my time with my high school robotics team and a (short) stint at a startup, I think I would really enjoy the startup/small company environment. Preferably in the sensor/embedded hardware/robotics/aerospace/automotive space.