Student Quotes
More than 2,490 seniors – approximately 51 percent of all survey participants – responded to the following question: **What was your most meaningful learning experience at UCLA?** The majority of responses to this question fell into one or more of 14 themes (based on 3,730 codes). The 10 most prevalent themes are presented below and accompanied by select responses.

**Curriculum & Coursework**  
**Personal Growth**  
**Faculty/TAs**  
**Intellectual Gains**  
**UCLA General**  
**Interactions Outside the Classroom**  
**Extracurricular Involvement**  
**Research Experience**  
**Academic Programs**  
**Non-Academic Programming**

**Curriculum & Coursework (29.6%, 740 Responses)**

Every experience I have had in the virtual classroom at UCLA has been amazingly insightful and educational. However, my most memorable lecture/learning experience was not within a Capstone Seminar, nor a curricularly-dense course. This was in fact a 2.0-unit course which exposed me to the various educational opportunities I could take part of in using my title as a history major. Before this course, I was afraid I would end up a failure since I had no concrete plan in terms of a career upon graduation, I just knew whatever employment opportunity I applied myself towards, I would dedicate everything I had to succeeding in it. What this course reassured me of was that it is okay not to always have a plan, as the journey of life if exactly that, a journey, consisting of winding roads, challenging hills, and abrupt stops. Thus, after my experience here at UCLA, I plan to have as many career experiences under my belt as possible before finding a permanent career, such as Museum Curator or Government Representative/Public Official, which satiates my love of learning and the pursuit of happiness in the hopes to make the world a wiser, happier, and more cohesive place.

Taking Education 130 with Dr. Howard - a look into how the current education system has been set up to further disadvantage already disadvantaged groups. The course really got me thinking about my privilege and what I can do to support diverse individuals and diverse learners to try to fight back against this system. This was the first course I took that centered on diversity and equity in education and transformed the way I thought about education.

My most meaningful learning experience came from my audit course. At the time while I was taking the class, I had actually landed a summer auditing internship opportunity. So
while learning in class, I tried to retain as much information as possible so that I would be better prepared for my internship. When summer arrived and my internship started, I was amazed by how much class learning was incorporated into the actual work world. Because I was always a student who didn't like learning about things that I will never use in my life (biology, calculus), seeing the course information unfold in front of my eyes at work opened my eyes to accounting profession.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was one of the last courses I took just for personal reasons, which is the English 98TW. The title of the course was what got me interested. Crip Theory is a writing course which delves into disability and diagnosis through the study of literature written by or concerning persons with disabilities, covering authors from the 1800’s up to the present. This course opened my eyes and affected me on a deep level. I decided to pursue a career helping children with autism because of this experience, and I had no trouble at all securing a position in this area. I believe it is because of the sensitivity and the many insights gained, not just in that particular course but because of my overall experience at UCLA as a person with a disability.

Taking Asian American 140XP was the most meaningful learning experience as it was a community-based learning class where I was able to work with a nonprofit organization, meet diverse people within and outside of UCLA, and give back to the community during dire times with the COVID-19 pandemic. I was able to learn about how the pandemic effected small businesses and people's livelihoods, and also how gentrification negatively effects lower socioeconomic neighborhoods and how language barriers make resources inaccessible for those who aren't proficient in English. This class allowed me to apply what I've learned throughout all of my Asian American Studies classes to real-world applications in a diverse city like Los Angeles. Other students in the class were able to work with other nonprofits that focus on other issues like feeding the hungry, using media as a form of advocacy, and more! I definitely feel like UCLA should invest more into having classes such as these ones that I feel makes me proud to be a Bruin.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA happened through the Social Enterprise Academy (Econ 173A and 173B, now numbered Econ 173AX and 173BX). During this two-quarter sequence, I was part of a team with four other UCLA students, as well as representatives from a nonprofit. Our goal was to help the nonprofit develop an idea for a revenue-generating venture in the winter and pitch it for potential funding in the spring. Throughout the two quarters, our team learned business skills relating to market research, financial analysis, and pitch delivery, but we also faced challenges together that taught us about compromise and client management. The combination of hard and soft skills we developed made the Social Enterprise Academy an especially meaningful experience.

The most meaningful learning experience I had at UCLA was when I took a methods and models course in the political science department with Professor Perez. It was there that I got to understand what research in political psychology meant and apply the
injustices I witnessed into bringing to light new information about my Latino community. It made me want to pursue research to improve the lives in my community and disband concepts that stated that people of color could not unite. I had found my purpose in a way and decided that I can pursue a Ph.D. because of the time and effort I am putting into my honors thesis. I created my own supportive community of academic scholars and realize that where ever I go I will be able to make my own community because of the skills and knowledge I gained at UCLA.

Personal Growth (25.6%, 640 Responses)

My most meaningful experience at UCLA was that no matter the background we come from everyone can achieve great things if they work hard. Anytime I went to [the] library, I saw many people with different race and ethnicities working hard to achieve their goals, some similar to mine some different. One thing was certain that hard work will pay off, I was inspired by them to work hard for my goals too and I hope future students coming to the school gain the same experience.

I am the daughter of two parents who came from Mexico to the United States with nothing. They came to give me the best life they could possibly provide me with and lead me to pursue higher education at the top public university of the United States. Being at UCLA as a first-gen college student, coming from a low-income family that had no true insight on what higher education in the US means, was a challenge to put it simply. UCLA was my biggest challenge yet. I had to learn to juggle working a full-time job and being a full-time student because I did not have the luxury and privilege to not work and focus my entire energy on my education. All while facing the adversities at UCLA. Academically, it was hard adjusting to such a rigorous academia and not knowing where to look for help. I also struggled with feeling included into the social UCLA world because I always felt out of place and felt that many of my colleagues looked down on me for being a person of color. However, my biggest most meaningful learning experience and UCLA was knowing that I am capable of anything I set my mind to because I pulled through all of the adversities and got my degree!!!

The moment I emerged out of imposter syndrome my 2nd year, just before the pandemic hit. I was finally feeling like UCLA was my stomping grounds and had metamorphosed into a true Bruin with people depending on me and people I can depend on. I've found my circle of people and am appreciative for higher education. As a first-generation student from a low-income community, it was surreal and took some time to adjust but I am thankful and wish my time here was spent more in-person. But given the circumstances, I am proud to walk the halls of UCLA and leave my legacy.

For me, getting into UCLA was dream that came true I could not believe that I was part of such a great and well-known academic institution…This has been one of my greatest accomplishments because it hasn't been easy at all but I did not give up. My background is that my grandmother is illiterate and my mother just completed one year of middle school, so for me being the first one in the family to attend a university is a
huge achievement. I wanted to change the direction and to improve the quality of life of those around me, so I decided to pursue what many thought was impossible. As a first-generation, parenting, non-traditional and low-income student, the challenges have been many but I kept trying. Moreover, during my time at UCLA the barriers increased. I encountered financial distress and health issues which made more difficult my academic experience. On top of that, the impostor syndrome and insecurities came into place but I kept reminding myself my purpose to achieve great things not only for me and family but for my Community. I want to be a role model for my daughter and I want show her that we can accomplish our most desired dreams when we are determined and persistent. All the classes I have taken at UCLA have opened my mind to a different level and I have developed new skills that are going to help me in my future career as politician. I know that there's still so much to learn and that I have to put into practice what I have learned but I am a warrior and I am ready for what is ahead.

I think the most meaningful learning experience for me at UCLA was figuring out that it's alright to ask for help. During my first year I was struggling in my classes, I barely went to office hours, and I really didn't collaborate much with my peers. Realizing that I needed to do more and ask for help to succeed at UCLA really helped me accept that it was alright that I was struggling because others were struggling as well. I just needed to ask for help to help me be successful in the class and UCLA overall.

Faculty/TAs (20.1%, 501 Responses)

I don't have too many experiences from UCLA as a transfer student during the pandemic, but many of the meaningful learning experience comes from professors who have been mindful and kind throughout this time. While some courses were similar to therapy sessions, others challenged both my perspectives at an educational level and on life. Finishing general education at a community college, and being challenged with upper-division courses was a difficult transition. However, my learning experience at UCLA has exceptionally been welcoming with professors and TAs who truly care about students and their sacrifices cannot go unnoticed, especially during the pandemic.

Taking HNRS M152 with Professor Diamond was the most meaningful learning experience because I have been a fan of his books since high school. In fact, one of the reasons I chose to attend UCLA was to be able to take a class with Professor Diamond, which was a dream that finally came true this quarter. The discussions for this class have also been exceptionally insightful, with every one participating and engaging with one another.

LS 30A/B with professor Jukka Keranen. It was a class based on mathematical modeling of biological systems using linear differential equations, and it easily became my favorite (also the reason I chose Mathematical Biology as my minor). The professor taught with such energy and humor that it was all I could do to sit and learn. I hope to be a professor at a university in the future (perhaps UCLA?) and he is the benchmark I aim for.
My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was sitting down with one of my professors and talking about how the emotions this generation has to deal with are so new and fast because of the rise of technology. We have information at our fingertips and how we process that is such an important thing to understand. Experiences like these where Professors and I sit down and talk outside of assignments, deadlines, etc. are the most meaningful for me.

The first quarter that we went completely online due to the pandemic was very special. I was able to see how the professors tapped into world events and the feelings of students. It was a very different style of living, teaching, and learning but the professors made sure to check in with us, continue teaching us the best they could, and making sure that we did not feel overwhelmed by classes. It was very wholesome.

It was on the first day of my first class of PhySci 5. I saw the professor talk incredibly passionately about nutrition, in a beautiful hall full of dazed and sleepy freshmen. It was at this moment I realized how much he truly cared about teaching us something he believed was important, as opposed to preparing us for the upcoming test. I absolutely loved the professors that taught this way, and his passion for the subject only made me more inclined to listen to what he was saying.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was reaching out for help. Personal issues affected my academic performance and when I finally reached out to a TA, I was helped beyond anything I expected. I had a very positive experience that allowed my perspective to change and remain focused to the remainder of my journey at UCLA. This was a meaningful learning experience on a personal level, which contributed to a better learning experience in the course.

In my freshman year, I took a cluster titled "History of Modern Thought." The material for the class was intimidating for me, both in terms of the level of comprehension and the mere number of pages, however, it was my favorite class that whole year because my discussion for the class and TA (Sean Messara) were incredibly supportive and we formed a tight-knit bond. At the end of the year, our TA brought us doughnuts and we surprised him with some of his favorite snacks. It was just a kind, touching, and tender sentiment we all shared and the heartwarming feeling filled the room. It was not a monumental moment, but it will forever be a memory that brings nostalgia to me about the altruistic and encouraging ethic UCLA fosters.

**Intellectual Gains (14.2%, 354 Responses)**

Learning about music and entertainment in a diverse classroom of intelligent and respectful young students and hearing what they think about various topics was a very meaningful learning experience. As a non-traditional student who is older than the average college student, it was very interesting to see what kinds of music, films and
entertainment Gen Z is absorbing and it gave me better insight on what I should look forward to at my future job in the industry targeting Gen Z audiences.

Having my political views challenged by people with opposing beliefs has really opened my eyes up to the different perspectives in the world. This is something I'll take with me forever.

The academic communication I have had with grad students and professors paved a way for me to see who I want to be in the future. Growing up in China, I have never got any opportunities to work on my own ideas, nor are they fit in the testing systems that can get me into a good college. However, at UCLA, I realize every idea deserves to be noticed: There are never standard answers because life does not have one. I feel very well supported by every faculty member and staff I have met during my exploration for grad research. Although the pandemic has made it extremely challenging to concentrate somehow, I still think my UCLA experience fundamentally revolutionized my worldview and my ways of thinking.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was challenging myself with courses with subjects that I had little or no knowledge about and completing those courses with an abundance of knowledge in a field I did not know much about. In addition, working with my peers in group projects and presentations provided opportunities to develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Taking classes outside of the "traditional" curriculum of high school, such as ethnic studies and education courses. It made me realize how much we are not taught (history that's erased, our own privileges) and just how many social issues still need work today. So I think UCLA made me a better social citizen and nurtured my desire to be connected to the world. Even with the current crisis in Ukraine, a lot of my friends aren't talking about it but I see a lot of my peers are.

When I first got here, I took a Queer Literature class. I didn't know anything about what the Queer experience was or how it could relate to my experience because I don't identify as Queer. If anything, I am curious. But we talked. We all shared the most intimate parts of ourselves that aren't easy and it's very easy to see how fluid the human experience is. It's amazing just how kindness spreads over the course of only 10 weeks, and I always carry the thoughts and ideas discussed in that class. Everyone should take a class that dictates ideas of inclusion and progressive behavior. Classes like that make the world a better place, and so it's the most meaningful thing I have held onto.

My most meaningful learning experience was being able to discuss about major social issues and injustices in an environment that required constant critical thinking and challenging of traditional ideologies.
UCLA General (13.5%, 336 Responses)

I learned something from this institution and its people every single day. The beauty of UCLA lies in its community. It is an incredibly enriching place, and I will cherish the authenticity offered by each moment I spent within its walls. I learned a great deal of who I am through these four years, and I am eternally grateful for the journey.

As a queer student, I felt comfortable being out and proud in most situations, meeting others who are respectful and accepting, which is something that I have not found previously in other spaces. Overall, I much enjoyed my experience at UCLA.

I love the environment at UCLA, it makes me feel safe. Being away from home can be very lonely but people here are very friendly and nice. I love all the staff at the dining hall and thank you so much for always providing us with delicious food. I met so many friends here that I won't forget, they had made my college experience complete.

Most of my learning experience at UCLA has occurred online, and I've found that the space that professors and students have created for one another has been one of compassion. Finding a sort of community even without a physical space was very meaningful to me.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was meeting a diverse group of people from different religious, social, political, and cultural backgrounds. UCLA is a cultural cosmopolitan and I think just spending time and creating close and meaningful relationships with people whose backgrounds are different than me will help guide me through my future interactions both professionally and personally.

Aside from all the excellent knowledge and skills I gained from being at UCLA, I admire that UCLA takes a look beyond academic ability. UCLA looks upon students as human beings with unique experiences and gives them the chance to pursue great things in life through academia.

In my case, it was more about environmental and group dynamics influencing success. I took great classes and learned a wide variety of subject matter. However, my most salient takeaway from attending UCLA was how ambition and meticulous pursuit of success is contingent on those you surround yourself with. Living at home last year, I only had myself to foster academic motivation. Being on campus, surrounded by like-minded, over-achieving individuals in all fields of study, is contagious to one's spirit. You are who surround yourself with, and I believe my aspirations have never been higher after being inundated by intelligent students and faculty.

Interactions Outside the Classroom (10.3%, 258 Responses)

Through meeting, studying and talking with various people, my perspective on the world has completely changed. I will have the courage to do what I want in a wider world and
live in a colorful world. I am graduating from UCLA, but I want to experience more with UCLA as a stepping stone. As a UCLA student, I gained a lot of courage to be able to take on many challenges by leaving UCLA. I am so proud and I think I will miss school.

Broadly speaking, I think the biggest thing I learned at UCLA was how important it was to wisely choose the people I spend most time with. The student body is huge, diverse, and varied, and it has given me so much opportunity to find my place and my community. In turn, that community has helped me through my work, my career and my social life and for that I am immensely thankful.

Each year, my roommates were of different ethnicities than me resulting in different foods, religions, beliefs, and study habits. This allowed me to explore foods, challenge my own beliefs, and grow into a better, more well-rounded student.

If I had to pick one, I would say the opportunities I was able to receive outside of school. I was able to meet so many UCLA alumni who I have built strong connections with. I also had opportunities to apply to internships that have helped me grow incredibly. I learned how to navigate my career, how to prepare myself, and more. I was able to find my community with the people I met because we all shared something in common, which was being UCLA students at one point in our lives. I love this school and I am so sad that my time was cut short due to Covid. However, I am grateful. I will always speak highly about UCLA because it holds a special place in my heart.

My most meaningful experience was actually from UCLA Alumni, in that I should learn something and pursue a career that I really want, not because of money, even if that passion is really difficult. I also learned to not worry or care so much about grades and to emphasize the experiences that you have and the life you have with people because you can in college, since you have so much flexibility. Perhaps its contradictory to the expectations of others and what UCLA strives for, but it has made me happier and gave me a better experience at UCLA because of that.

For me, learning always meant academics -- struggling through pages of notes to understand complex topics from my classes. However, my most meaningful learning experience was not a breakthrough in science or any other class subject. It was learning of my roommate's background, the polar opposite of my own upbringing. He lost his mom to cancer and his father had abandoned him from birth. Hence, he had left his home, friends, and relatives in El Salvador and had endured so many troubles to get to the US. Of course, there were also many funny stories mixed inside his giant bag of experiences. When he got here, his life wasn't totally full of poverty but for sure he and his aunt's family couldn't afford many of the luxuries that I had (well except that he got a smartphone before me but pretty much everyone has). To this day, he still misses his family back in El Salvador but cannot travel there if he wants to eventually apply as a citizen in the US. Meeting my roommate has allowed me to gain exposure to a side of the world that I would have never really tried to understand, and I am quite thankful to UCLA for giving me this opportunity.
My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA has been meeting and becoming close to my roommate. She comes from a vastly different socioeconomic background than myself, and I have been able to broaden my perspective immensely by hearing about her struggles growing up. Her experiences have allowed me to feel grateful for my own, but also resentful against the systematic oppression that poor people face in this country. I appreciate UCLA’s holistic application process that accepted her, because although she did not have the highest test scores, she is an amazing and driven person that has overcome hardships I cannot begin to imagine. I am proud to be her roommate and friend, and I am proud that UCLA sees the value in all of its students without boiling them down to numerical values.

The most meaningful learning experience I’ve had at UCLA has been during discussions with those living in the same dorm as me. I have learned a lot about foreign politics, education, and social structure from my dorm mates and it has helped me better understand how different the world outside of LA is. I’m excited to go out into the world because of these discussions and so consider them to be most meaningful.

**Extracurricular Involvement (8.2%, 205 Responses)**

Joining the mentor/mentee program offered by the Armenian Student Association. During these difficult times, it is hard getting in touch with counselors who see thousands of students a day. By having the opportunity to help out or be helped by students is both rewarding and reassuring.

I think I would have to choose the opportunity to join several organizations at UCLA and sit on the board of orgs related to student government, legal studies, human trafficking and working with the sociology department at UCLA. Going into a master’s program in education, I feel I am well rounded and prepared with the experiences in the classroom and outside entities. I know wherever I go, I will be an asset to these communities.

Being involved in clubs has given me the opportunity to grow confidence in my leadership abilities and have a lasting impact on the campus community.

My most meaningful learning experiences come from the student organizations I joined. I owe almost my entire college experience to Creative Labs UCLA. They welcome different majors and ages with a passion to learn about the tech industry.

I liked how I was able to find a community in organizations on campus (UniCamp) and how it guided me to a path of a passion for wanting to work with kids in the future. It made me realize that working with foster youth and at-risk youth is important and the world needs more social workers and community workers. I was able to make friends after feeling alone for my first two-quarters of school. It helped me grow as a person and as a leader.
Being a part of the UCLA Debate Union was my most meaningful learning experience - it opened me up to new perspectives, competing viewpoints, and allowed me to critically engage with and debate controversial subjects.

The Hip Hop program has completely shifted my view on dance and street dance as a whole and has encouraged me to become more actively involved in the communities outside of my own.

Being a part, and then an officer, of the UCLA CLUB Archery team. It was one of the only real social things that made it through covid and the only reason I had friends. It gave me school spirit, friends, and an emotional break from school.

The most meaningful experience I had at UCLA was finding my home away from home in Grupo Folklorico at UCLA. I felt so welcomed at the first meeting and it felt like a safe haven where I could just be myself.

My most impactful UCLA experience was the Afrikan Black Coalition conference and getting to network with other Black students at PWI's across California. Meeting them and discussing ways to improve our academic and social environment at school greatly impacted my experience at UCLA as I no longer felt as though I was alone in my experience.

Joining a board game club in my senior year (first and last year back on campus), where I finally found a community. Meeting the people there and getting together every week has been the most valuable experience I’ve gained from UCLA. While I value the education I received, this experience of finally being myself with people has been the most meaningful for me.

My most meaningful experience was a medical trip I did with Global Medical Training (GMT) at UCLA. As a group, we travelled to Panama to provide free medical services to underserved communities in Panama. I made great friendships with other UCLA students and met very amazing doctors and people in Panama. I learned many things about medicine and compassion for people. This was a very great experience I had a UCLA, specifically with the GMT team.

Research Experience (5.9%, 148 Responses)

Pursuing my own research into homophobia, history, and the ancient Near East under the guidance of Dr. Gina Konstantopoulos. She held the space for me to work through these topics and pursue lines of research and argumentation that genuinely fascinated me. As a result, I have a much deeper understanding of both my field and academia. Furthermore, I have had the pleasure to present some of this research at conferences outside of UCLA and that has been an amazing experience that I would not have had without the support of her or this school.
Working in a lab has been very impactful and taught me many things I could not learn anywhere else. This includes learning about time management and work ethic along with science. The science that I learned made me feel special because I was discovering it and helping design experiments. I have had so much fun working in a lab that I may want it to get a Ph.D. I look up to all the people I work with and I want to make them proud. Working in a lab has been my best learning experience at UCLA.

In the math side, my REUs together with several contract courses and with the awesome math courses helped me grow academically. In particular, through REUs one sees how proving new math results works. This is an important experience as it is entirely different from just taking a math class. After I had my 6-month-long REU, I had become much more resilient, patient, and passionate about math. Also, something that was not obvious to me before coming to UCLA is the importance of discussions with peers. One learns from peers as much as they learn from their professors.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was conducting research in my lab and presenting this research at UCLA's poster conference. I think this experience really integrated what I had learned from my coursework and taught me how to apply what I've learned from my major to real-life experiences. I think presenting my research was a great opportunity for me to think on the spot and answer questions. It also taught me how to succinctly and clearly explain my thought processes.

I have been conducting research with UCLA faculty for over three years. I feel like in doing research I learn something new every day, either about the universe or the astronomical community.

Even though it was very hard to find a research position and there was no help from my department, I still tried really hard to find one and I did. It turned out that finding a research position was the best thing I have ever done at UCLA. I got to meet great people that are already working in the field that I am interested in, I can ask all my questions regarding graduate school and just life in general, I am learning so much in the lab and found it very satisfying to actually apply my knowledge that I gained from classes to the real research world, which is just amazing. I now want to apply for Ph.D. program at UCLA and pursue research to become a scientist. Although I felt alone in the process of getting research and making connections with people in the field, I still feel that I was able to get it in the end because I am a UCLA student, which gave me a better chance to find a research lab here at UCLA.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was my research experience with the IoES' Corporate Partners Program. This work I engaged with during my junior year allowed me to think creatively and independently in order to create a solution for businesses in response to increased teleworking emissions during the pandemic. I believe the challenges I encountered during this project prepared me for my subsequent internships and equipped me with the confidence to approach every adversity as an opportunity for growth, learning, and personal improvement.
Academic Programs (4.2%, 104 Responses)

Joining the Academic Advancement Program and becoming a Peer Counselor has uplifted me in so many different ways, and being able to help students who look like me, struggle like me is just so impactful. It makes me sad to leave, but I am so grateful for this experience and watching these students blossom into inspiring leaders, community advocates, lawyers, doctors, etc. makes me tear up a little. At the end of the day, I made my mark and this is the legacy I leave to this school. I have contributed so much and given so much of my time and love into this campus and into helping better the community in different ways. These memories are forever.

Through the honors program I did an honors contract with my psychology professor. I loved this time where I got to ask questions and have meaningful discussions with my professor and learn more about cognitive psychology as a whole while practicing concepts through my final paper of the honors contract. This led me to spend an extra hour discussing the curriculum with my professor and I eventually joined her Cognitive Psychology lab. It was this experience in the lab that I was able to learn how real experiments were conducted and many of these learnings allowed me to eventually land my UX Research Internship which has led me to my full-time job post-graduation. I see this honors contract as truly the starting point of this whole journey, making it my most meaningful experience at UCLA by far.

Being a learning assistant was one my most memorable experiences at UCLA. It's true that I helped facilitate collaboration, discussion, and learning, however I also learned a great deal about myself and the way I approach problems. I have learned to adapt to different styles of thinking, learned to constantly question key assumptions I might make while solving a problem, and I've also learned to overcome my own implicit biases.

Without a doubt, UCDC was my most meaningful learning experience at UCLA. It led me to move to DC temporarily for another internship, create lasting connections with professionals and friends, and developed a research project during it that I am confident was extremely helpful during the law school admissions process and receiving an acceptance from my top choice, Harvard Law School.

The most meaningful experience was the FMBQ. I gained lifelong friends and research experience that will help me in my career.

My most meaningful learning experience at UCLA was taking the Interracial Relations in America cluster in my freshman year. The year-long course challenged me academically, with many readings and papers. The cluster also made me aware of how much of a role race plays in various aspects of life, from access to high-quality education to securing housing. As a result of this cluster, my critical thinking skills were greatly improved.
My freshman year cluster, America in the 1960s. It was able to teach a variety of skills (research, writing, analysis, etc), while also being incredibly engaging and interesting. I learned a lot about the time period as well as the lasting effects of the era. I looked forward to the class every week, and I always learned a lot. The seminar portion of the course was also very interesting and a very unique way of tying in the content of the 1960s to modern media.

Non-Academic Programming (2.8%, 69 Responses)

My most memorable learning experience may have come from, not a professor but my New Student Advisor during orientation. At the time, I wasn't in a great place which definitely affected my self-esteem, and although I thought it was cool I got into such a top-tier university, I felt I couldn't be happy. This made me doubt myself, especially after meeting these students whose parents were doctors and things like that; I suffered from imposter's syndrome. However, there was one moment where we all had to meet with our advisors individually and talk about whatever. I opened up and she really taught me that I just can't give up on myself, especially before I've even given myself a chance. That was definitely a teachable moment, and I still carry that with me to this day. It's one of the reasons I'm getting my B.S. at 19 and I can feel proud about it.

Getting to live on the Hill amongst other people who are also in pursuit of a successful future helped me realize not everyone is fortunate enough to experience this and having experienced both sides of the situation my motive for the future is help those in need.

There is so much experience UCLA gives me that I will never forget. One of the most meaningful experience for me is that taking online course in the school dorm from 2020 to 2021. I am so grateful that UCLA allows me to stay on campus and offers so much help in academic and in life during the pandemic.

I would say that the biggest learning experience I've had though has been my time as a Resident Assistant in the dorms. I've learned so much from all of my residents. It's been extremely challenging, especially now as we exist in a COVID world in the dorms, to do this role and feel fulfilled. But every time I interact with a resident, I learn something. Whether it's about myself - that it is okay to set boundaries, to seek out support for myself, and it's a lot harder to ask for help yourself when you're the one people are supposed to go to when THEY need help. I've also learned so much from them - how to communicate (especially under pressure or when tensions/stress are high), how to see the world from another point of view, how to take into account people's identities and experiences in shaping their beliefs, and so much more. I've also learned how to provide support and communicate with someone who thinks different and has different views from you. This has been difficult, and I am still learning, but this position has allowed for so much personal and professional growth, and strengthened my interpersonal skills. It's allowed me to apply a lot of what I have learned in both my majors (history and gender studies) to my actions. To take concepts and make them tangible.
I think my experiences with CAPS has been the most meaningful learning experience I've had. I could point to many moments of learning but working with my counselor at CAPS has been extremely beneficial in training my worldview to be positive and growth-oriented. The lessons I've learned there are things that are vastly under-taught in college and hardly mentioned in the real world. Because of my time at CAPS, I feel I have a huge advantage in my mindset over other students, coworkers... etc.

The most meaningful learning experience has come from my time during TSP (transfer summer program). It was an opportunity for transfer students to get acclimated with the school routine, which included living in the dorms, eating in the dining halls, going to classes and having tutoring sessions.