

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Berkeley

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



● Yes  
● No

Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- Students should expect a very challenging culture with support only if you seek it. Berkeley is the oldest UC so naturally there are ample opportunities to get involved in anything you desire (be it Greek life, Leadership Orgs, Student Government, etc.).
- This community is...interesting. I am constantly surrounded by people who (seem like they) are so much smarter than me. Coming here is very, very humbling. However, the students here seem to all be just as humble. Within the first few weeks of coming here, I found some of the kindest, most considerate human beings I have ever met. Berkeley accepts students with interesting backgrounds and lives. One of my best friends is from a tiny town in Northern California, where he had to ride his bike 6 miles through literal farmland to get to his school of 20 students. Another one of my friends was one of the top students at the biggest school in San Diego. Basically, I have never been surrounded by such eclectic, and yet like minded people in my life.

Academically, this school is VERY challenging. Right now, 65% of my physics class is straight out failing the course. It is NOT a school to go to if you want straight As. HOWEVER, I am having so much fun here. I have never been bored coming to class and despite the fact that the classes are difficult, they are extremely interesting. They are fast paced and complex, which I love. It is very easy to fall behind, which encourages me to come to class every day and to go to office hours (which lets me get to know my professors). Because everyone is so brilliant, clubs can also be very impacted. I have not had an issue with this because I have found clubs that are very specific to my interests, but clubs like the Pre-med club are very difficult to get into.

The weather is for the most part nice, but we are a coastal NorCal school, so we have many rainy days. I like that, but some might not.

- There are many rumors that Berkeley is a very cut throat school, with immense competition in/ out of the classroom. Before my first year at Cal I heard stories of students sabotaging others and only looking out for themselves. My reality was much different and I have never experienced these sentiments in my now 3 years here. Classes are difficult yes, but definitely not unmanageable. There IS help if you seek it (i.e the Student Learning Center offers free tutoring M-F in all hard sciences, economics, and writing). The awesome thing about Berkeley is that it is so big so everyone is usually able to find their niche. School spirit is very high, especially during football season (freshmen get free season passes so make sure to go with your new dormmates :) In order to be successful you need to STAY ON TOP OF ALL OF YOUR WORK! Once you're behind 1-2 days it's VERY HARD to catch up!

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- Getting involved in identity based spaces have the most resources tailored to your needs plus you get the bonus of meeting people who understand where you come from which is nice to have when you need it.
- As someone who has suffered with an Anxiety Disorder my entire life, the Counseling and Psychological Services here at Berkeley have been phenomenal for me. The first 5 sessions with a therapist or counselor are free, and if you have student

insurance, all of the following sessions are only \$15. They also have free sessions for LGBTQ+ identifying students through the Gender Equality Resource Center. (I have not personally needed the service, but I have a few friends currently transitioning from Male to Female and Female to Male, and they have said that the doctors and staff here have made their transition so much more comfortable than they were expecting.)

On the same note, the medical center (TANG - <https://uhs.berkeley.edu/>) has never let me down. I have gone into Urgent Care twice for medical reasons and both times I was seen within 20 minutes of arriving, and I only had to pay a co-pay for \$30. General primary care visits are \$15 and I have been to 3 of those. I had easy access to information about birth control and it is paid for through the student insurance (SUPER cool).

I have worked with the Disabled Students Program for accommodations for my anxiety disorder. Basically, in the beginning of the year I met with a psychologist and now if I feel like I need to request extra time for an upcoming midterm, I send an email to the DSP program and they find me a testing space somewhere on campus where I can test without distractions for a longer amount of time.

I have also used some academic services that are available to ALL students. Right now I am seeing a free tutor once a week for writing advice and workshops. This is SUPER helpful because I meet with the same tutor every time, so they are used to my writing style, preferences, and weaknesses.

Another resource that I use almost every day is something called BearWalk. Basically, Berkeley has a group of students who are trained with the University Police Department to walk students around campus after dark. It is kind of like uber, but the students who are dispatched to help you out are in direct contact with UCPD and the Berkeley Police Department, so they can route you around troublesome areas if something happens. I feel really safe walking around campus with them because I know that if I call a phone number, a specially trained student will come and make sure I get home okay.

- Student Learning Center (free tutoring/ study spaces), Open Commuting Facility (free printing up to 20 pages a day -printing is never free in college), bridges Multicultural Resource Center

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- I wish I knew about the difficulty. Honestly, there are times I feel discouraged and that I didn't go to this school. BUT I am so grateful for this opportunity and I don't think I can say I wish I could go back and change it. Berkeley is a hub of social change that makes everyone who wants to make a positive impact enjoy their college experience.
- Housing will be very difficult to find for your Sophomore year. No matter how much they try to sell you the whole "most students find on campus housing their second year!" its probably not true. This isn't that much of an issue if you start looking early, or know your budget. You will be paying a lot for a terrible apartment close to campus, but so is everyone else. Again, it really is NOT that bad, but don't come here expecting guaranteed housing any year except your freshmen year. (Also, choose either Unit 1, Unit 3, or Foothill if you want to live close to campus. Choose Clark Kerr if you want the biggest rooms and the nicest living facilities. Unit 2 is alright because it is newer, but Unit 1 is the exact same layout and buildings, but it is 2 blocks closer to campus)

On a different note, when I first said "Yes, I want to come to Berkeley" I was very, very afraid about the size of the school. However, once I got here I almost immediately found my place. Don't worry too much about finding people you fit in with here at Berkeley. Just be yourself, and they will find you.

- College is very stressful. You're always going to have a paper due, a midterm you -should- be studying for, a project deadline approaching, etc and it's very easy to get caught up in just being stressed 24/7. But remember, you're also in college to enjoy yourself and learn about things you love/ are passionate about. Self-care was one of the most important things I learned in my time here at Cal. It's okay, to put the book down for a night a give yourself some time to relax, watch a show on netflix, or go out to dinner with friends. Or if you've been studying hard all week, take an evening for yourself and go to sleep early. SLEEP IS PRODUCTIVE TOO!!! Personally I found when i was focusing 100% on school and pushing aside my friends and doing things that I enjoyed, I was incredibly unhappy, so it's best to find a balance, and everyone's is different!

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2015	Mankewitz, Jessica ( <a href="mailto:jmankewitz@gmail.com">jmankewitz@gmail.com</a> )
2014	Adi, Suher
2013	Jalilian, Laila

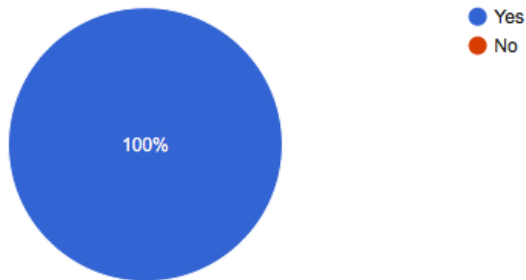
\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



## University of California, Davis

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- Davis is such a college town. Not a whole lot to do, but you'll be busy hanging out with friends and studying that you won't mind. It's very different from SoCal. But Davis is a friendly town and you'll find your place in no time with so many on-campus organizations.
- There are all kinds of things to do here. Not only is it the largest UC geographically, but it is a beautiful campus and no matter what you like, there should be something to catch your attention. There are clubs and communities of all types for all kinds of majors, but UC Davis thrives the most in the sciences. However, I am not in the science and I still love this school. I am majoring in Cinema and Digital Media with a double major in Graphic Design and there are still plenty of resources available for me (from clubs, to jobs to extracurriculars). I am currently getting paid by one of the UC Davis Graduate schools to be a videographer and photographer for their department. I will soon be doing graphic design for them as well!
- You should expect the west side campus to smell like cow for most of the Fall and Spring quarters, but it's really not bad at all. Davis wouldn't be Davis without the cows, and you can go up to them and pet them in your free time. We also have otters that swim around in our Arboretum every now and then. The Davis community is super friendly. In my three years here, I've never had a negative experience with another student. The campus is diverse compared to a lot of other campuses, and it's LGBTQIA friendly for the most part, and also friendly toward DACA/AB540 students. There are organizations and student centers for almost every race, religion, hobby, and interest. Because it is a research institute, I also HIGHLY recommend students to get involved in research. It looks good on a resume, it's a great resource for letters of recommendation, and research is sometimes paid.  
Davis summers are hot at about 90-108 degrees Fahrenheit. Winters do get a little cold at about 40 degrees on an average day. Fall and Spring are in the 60s-high 70s.

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- Free Tutoring
- In terms of academics, there is a website called Aggie Job Links and this is a super useful resource to look for jobs and internships (<https://ucdavis-csm.symplicity.com/students/>). There are also other resources like the Internship and Career Center that can help you find internships and jobs either in person or online (<https://icc.ucdavis.edu/>). If you're looking into Greek Life, Davis has one of the biggest Greek Life scenes out of all of the UC's (In terms of the amount of fraternities and sororities). Also, if you're looking to study abroad, we have an amazing department that will help you with every step along the way.
- OFFICE HOURS. I cannot emphasize that enough. Our freshman dorms have free tutoring in writing, math, and chemistry. There is also a student success center where a lot of workshops on almost any topic are held. The Internship and career center holds resume workshops and mock interviews. The women's resource center has a library with tea and snacks and is a good study spot.

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- THEY HAVE AN AWESOME FOOD PLAN. lol.
- I wish I knew how live the college scene was. It's the definition of a college town. We have like 35,000 undergrads so everywhere you walk you see young people EVERYWHERE you go in Davis.
- Everyone in college is crazy smart. You may leave high school with that perfect 4.0 and realize your first semester/quarter that you may actually be struggling a bit. Take a deep breath and relax. It may take some time to get accustomed to the fast-paced college world, but you'll recover if you take advantage of office hours, tutoring, and the help of your peers.

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2013	Franco, Emmanuel ( <a href="mailto:efranco@ucdavis.edu">efranco@ucdavis.edu</a> )
2013	Henriquez, Adriana ( <a href="mailto:ahenriquez@ucdavis.edu">ahenriquez@ucdavis.edu</a> )
2014	Bixler, Sarah
2015	Mettler, Molly

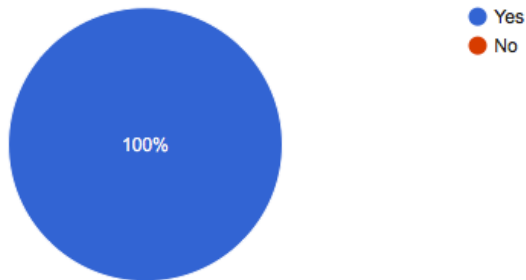
*\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!*

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Irvine

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- The school campus is nice and the weather here is your typical SoCal weather. The overall atmosphere in UCI is very calm, so there are not as many parties which some people enjoy. The vast majority of the student population is Asian, so it may come across as a culture shock to some, especially when they realize there are many international students on campus. Everything in Irvine is expensive, so be prepared for that. From what I have heard and encountered, the counselors for the Biological Sciences and Engineering schools are more stricter and harsher than the ones for the other schools since the environment for these two schools is sink or swim. Students should be aware of the fact that the dropout rate for these two schools is quite high, but people should not feel too discouraged if they see that their first choice major is not the right fit for them. There is a major out there for them and they should be open to exploring their options.
- The community is extremely laid back. There is an assumption that everyone is going to be competitive and not help each other out, especially as a biology major, but I personally have only had good experiences with asking for help. The bio major structure is super strict though.

For those who are entering as a bio major, knowing that putting everything into the first two years (5 bio classes, g-chem, and o-chem) is critical. If you fail one class, you'll be dropped from the major. Afterwards, it's a little more relaxed, but the pressure is definitely there in terms of weeding people out of the major.

The most successful students are probably the ones who attend office hours and post on the discussion board. I noticed the ones who get A's are the ones who the professor know by name (from participating in class, office hours, etc.) There used to be 415 people in my bio/chem classes before people dropped from the major, so the professor isn't going to be able to know everyone. Putting effort into showing that you care about learning makes you stand out from the crowd.

The weather is nice. Irvine is close to Newport Beach so there's the beach breeze and cooler weather. Irvine has a reputation of the "Irvine Bubble" though. Be prepared to look for people with cars or have a car on campus if you want a more exciting atmosphere.

- The community has a very "rich" feel to it. Of course you will get to know students from different backgrounds, but the area you are surrounded by is very rich. UCI is a little isolated from the rest of the city unless you have a car. The school has a very heavy Asian presence which is cool as a cultural experience! The academics are wonderful and I would highly recommend.
- There are many things to expect. Mostly, people expect UCI to be mostly Asians, which is true. But, the percentage of Asian students are lowering. The community is mostly clean and safe (like anywhere, sometimes it can be unsafe). There are many cultures, like Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, etc. There are also tons of clubs too. Other than ~20 fraternities and ~24 sororities, there are honor societies, Christian fellowships, sports clubs, martial arts, community service, undergraduate research, etc. If you are Catholic, you can go to mass on campus easily. The type of student that is most successful is those who manage their time well, make a good schedule, put academics as a priority, and network. If you make a good schedule, you'll have tons of time to do whatever you want. But, most of that time goes to homework and studying. Get to know your professors so you can slowly build connections. The weather is mostly nice. There is a really good, nice gym called the ARC, which is included in your tuition. So, go workout! Also, there are many good eating places outside of campus. There's so much places to try! But, my wallet won't support me for that. :(

## What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- I would definitely recommend that any students in engineering go to the CODE room for tutoring since it has been a great resource for me. There is also the General Chem peer tutors which I would also recommend since they offer tutoring for the first 2 years of chemistry that many students are required to take. I only needed to take 1 year, but I still found it helpful nonetheless especially for the review sessions that they would offer prior to midterms and finals. Not all professors will hold these sessions for these exams, so this is definitely beneficial to the students. For any undocumented students, the SOAR center is a great place for them to receive help ranging from legal issues to financial aid or even some help on their homework. I like to help out the cause so I visit when I can. All of the resources above are free. LARC is another tutoring option which does cost money (\$100 a quarter), but the fee can be waived if you qualify. Nathalie and I have been given the waiver and she has been able to use it, but I have been unable to do so since the school doesn't offer LARC for certain classes. It is a great resource and it mostly for classes that most students have trouble with being math, chemistry, and physics (they may have it for more classes though).
- LARC (Learning Academic Resource Center) tutoring. I used it for organic chem and I feel that I would not have gotten an A without it. You pay \$100 for the entire quarter and get two tutoring sessions a week in a smaller class of ~6 people. Since the class has 300 people, it's hard to get the help you need if you're not great at chemistry. LARC really helps with that because the tutors are great and you get more attention.

UCI peer tutoring. Every class has peer tutors that help you with the subject. If you don't want to pay for LARC, you can go to the class tutoring sessions for free. The downside is that the class size is bigger (around 30 per session) and they're held only once a week. If you're good at a subject, you can be a peer tutor for a class! Make sure to get A's and then you can apply to help other people get an A. It's really a great program.

- The career center, clubs, and faculty!!
- Top recommended resources are office hours, peer tutoring, LARC tutoring (paid tutoring), the library, and counselors.

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- I wish I would have known how expensive college would be, so I wish I would have earned a job sooner rather than waiting until I started college in order to get a position. I also wish I would have known how difficult it would be to find housing after the first year since the rent increases and more freshmen are taking up more of the apartments that continuing undergraduates desire. Another important thing I wish I knew how to do sooner is to do more adult things such as filing taxes.
- Don't be narrow minded when entering college related to what you want to be in the future. I came in as a biology major (pre-med) and wanted to be a doctor. I couldn't see myself doing anything else before I started college. My first year, I realized how many more options there are, aside from being a doctor, that I would also enjoy. If I had only focused on being a doctor, I wouldn't have took a intro to teaching class and took on a education major along with the bio major. (I want to be a bio teacher now). It's fine if your goal for a future occupation changes.
- Find your niche! It makes the big campus feel a lot smaller.
- Something I wished I knew in senior year about UCI is that I'll be reading so much from now on. While I was back in DVS, I did not have to read so much (besides from USH, Poli Sci, and Econ). When I come to UCI, there are so much to read for every course everyday to the point I get tired of them. It is a quarter system, so you go through 1-3 chapters a week depending on the class. With multiple classes, the chapters you have to read per week adds up, and I tend to be behind at times.

I also wished that I knew how to take notes better. At DV, you mostly receive worksheets or foldables that can act as your notes. But, coming to UCI, you have to create your own note-taking system for both lecture and readings. You have to try out all methods and find the most efficient one.

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2015	Nguyen, Andrew ( <a href="mailto:andrn10@uci.edu">andrn10@uci.edu</a> )
2015	Contreras, Jocelyn
2014	Chino, Iridian ( <a href="mailto:ichinodo@uci.edu">ichinodo@uci.edu</a> )
2014	Lieu, Daniel ( <a href="mailto:dklieu@uci.edu">dklieu@uci.edu</a> )
2014	Maldonado, Nathalie
2014	Sharma, Summer ( <a href="mailto:sharmaso@uci.edu">sharmaso@uci.edu</a> )

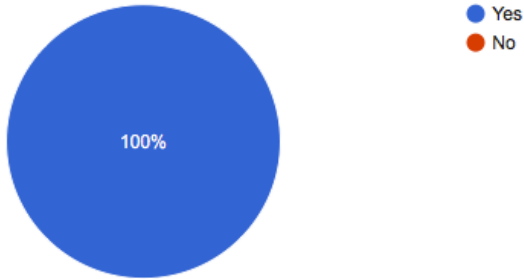
\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Los Angeles

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- UCLA is pretty lively. There's always some type of event going on. We have a lot of clubs ranging from many interests (social, academic, etc) so if you think you won't find anyone with the same interests as you, chances are there's a club for the things that you like.  
Because I lived in the dorms for the majority of my time here (and will be living in the apartments next year) I don't have the commuter experience of going to school. There are a ton of perks from living close to campus. I get access to food, the dorm life, places to study until late hours at night, exploring the cities around me, not having to deal with traffic etc. As for academics it takes a while to get used to as the majority of classes determine your grade on exams (quizzes, midterms, and finals) and essays. It's also very fast paced (with the quarter only being 10 weeks) so it is very easy to fall behind. It's on you to attend class and pay attention as the professor has too many students on their plate to worry about the ones that don't attend. If you do have to miss out on class, office hours are a thing and TAs are a major help (and they have their own office hours too).
- UCLA is filled with motivated people that want to do well academically and socially. The type of student that is successful is one that is ambitious and constantly stays on top of things; if a student doesn't do this, they can quickly fall behind in their classes due to the quick pace of the quarter system.
- UCLA is a very large school, but if you take the time to get involved, you can get to know lots of people and have the choice to be a part of some amazing groups and organizations. There are so many options for clubs, that I'm sure you'll find at least one that will be a great fit. You'll find cultural clubs, dance clubs/teams, academic clubs, career oriented clubs, community service clubs, religious clubs, and almost every type of other club you can think of. There are tons of opportunities and resources out there, which can be overwhelming, but by talking to others and asking questions, you can find what you need. The culture is pretty easy-going and there is lots of Bruin pride on campus. Sports are a huge part of campus culture and something that UCLA really prides itself on, so there are always really fun sports events going on that I would definitely recommend going to. Academics are high standard and can, in fact, WILL get difficult and stressful, especially because you get put into a group of thousands of students who are all amazingly high performers. Depending on classes and majors, there can be competition between students in academics. You have to learn to stop comparing yourself to other students, and really focus on improving and doing the best that you can to be successful. It's really important to be on top of things, take advantage of office hours, talk to your professors, and talk to older students to be successful. Because there are so many students, classes regularly can reach over 300 students, so it's easy to feel drowned, but to be successful, you have to be proactive. Even just getting into the classes that you need can be a stressful process (I personally have had this issue MANY time) because of the amount of students that there are, so you need to be prepared and have back ups. UCLA of course has nice and sunny weather almost all the time as I'm sure you all know since we all live in LA!

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- CAPS (the counseling and psychological services)  
AAP (academic resource center, help you if you have questions about your class load or if you wanna drop something, and they have tutors for classes that you might be taking)  
OSD (office of students with disabilities whether it's physical or mental they have the resources to help out)

CPO (that's location in the student activities center and they have a lot of resources from a food closet, to a study/dining lounge, free printing, and community events)

Writing Center (they look at your essays and edit + give you tips on how to improve it based on your assignment guidelines)

- The main resources I've used are Office Hours and discussion sections to clarify and refine my knowledge of the content covered in lecture.
- PLF program (peer learning, which gives you extra help on classes), club fairs, career fairs, fitness and recreation (Sunset Recreation, John Wooden Center, BFit), CEC (free entertainment related events such as movie screenings)

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- I wish I knew that taking AP classes could get me out of taking certain classes. I took the AP Spanish test and I was able to be exempt from doing the foreign language requirement.
- Unlike DVS, there won't be many teachers and classmates to check in on you and make sure you're on track with your studying and due dates, so constantly check to make sure you're not falling behind on anything.
- Again, I would just say to make the most of the time you have left here. Spend time with your family and your friends, appreciate the teachers and staff, and have fun. College is great, but there are always things that I miss about high school, so enjoy it!

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2014	KhanQadri, Israa (israakhan96@yahoo.com)
2013	Chavez, Artemis Jessica
2013	King, John

*\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!*

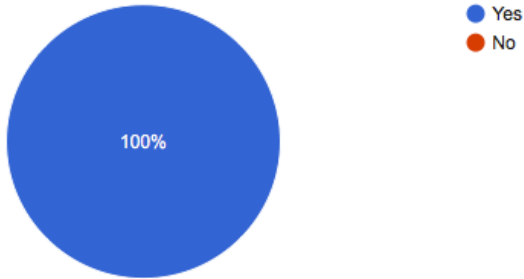


Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Merced

## Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



### Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- Students should expect an eclectic amount of clubs to choose from, especially clubs similar to ones offered at Da Vinci like SHPE, SWE, Zumba, etc. They range from fitness clubs to educational clubs and even to clubs that suit your hobbies like gaming. Merced offers a lot of Farmers Markets on campus where you can purchase fruits and vegetables. Successful students typically take advantage of office hours and asking the professor specific questions instead of just relying on peers, although study groups are highly recommended!
- The community here is very nice towards UC Merced students. The culture here mostly involves Asian and Mexican traditions. Academics here involving STEM majors will be challenging and SSHA majors should be fine for the most part. The weather here goes from very hot to unbearably cold.

### What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- There are multiple resources available to students, popular ones would be PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Support) where you can get additional help from tutors and CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) for students that find adjusting to college difficult.
- There is a program called PALS that can help

### Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- Honestly, my first year in college felt very much like junior year of high school which is not what I expected. In senior year, I expected all classes to be insanely difficult (Don't get me wrong, they are) but the key is time management and focus. Senior year is usually where people lose focus and not dedicate time toward studying when it is the best time because school always continues. You will always be studying in college and getting distracted often will add a lot of unnecessary pressure. Just keep your goal in mind.
- Build up your credit now and get a drivers license.

### Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2012	Murillo, Allan
2014	Lopez, Efrain (elopez78@ucmerced.edu)
2015	Amezquita, Samantha
2015	Camacho, Estela
2015	Sanchez, Destanee

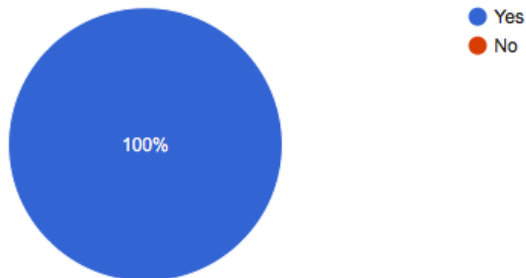
\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Riverside

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- Wide variety of clubs that vary from ethnic based to major based. In addition, Riverside's weather can be very bi-polar (very hot and very cold!).

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- ARC center for tutoring, Professor and TA's office hours etc.

Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- Come into college with a major in mind and there might be a chance you might pursue a major you did not intend on pursuing.

Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2013	Lopez, Austin
2013	Phan, Dennis
2013	Martinez, Raquel

\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, San Diego

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



● Yes  
● No

Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- UCSD's a huge campus 'cause it has a 6-college system, and it's filled with various types of organizations and clubs. There's a lot of opportunities to really find your niche here, but it's really up to you take the time in order to search for that. Whatever you're passionate about, I guarantee that there's an org that will meet your desire. Although you can still choose to have a healthy social life, the culture at UCSD is, I feel, very individualistic. I notice that most of the people are always trying to find places to study - usually by themselves. But, it's kind of a good thing. It's pretty peaceful in that regard, and you can always find a nice place to study. And you'll need it - because the academia at UCSD is really hard. You have to be able to manage your time wisely - around your school-work, regular work (if you choose to get a job), social life, personal life, etc. The weather's gorgeous, and the beaches here are beautiful. There's lots of good places to eat, and numerous opportunities to have fun.

Students who love walking, are down to ride buses to find spots to watch beautiful sunsets, love legitimate Mexican food, and entertain the idea of partying in Tijuana (while still maintaining their GPA), would be perfect for UCSD.

- Since UCSD is a research school a majority of the STEM majors here is really strong. Because of that, the majors are also really impacted making switching into majors such as engineering a little more difficult. You have to take screening courses within your first two years in order to apply into a major, where they weight you based on your GPA on those courses. I can't say much for other majors, however I have heard the arts programs are not as strong here compared to other UC's.

Additionally, there are a lot of resources on UCSD that students can use for their classes. There are almost always tutors for a majority of different classes because UCSD wants you to succeed. The only thing you need to do is use those resources! They have plenty of TA's and Office Hours you can go in to get your questions figured out. There are tutors for nearly every subject scattered around campus. Additionally, there are a lot of major specific FB groups on campus where you can find other students in your classes and get plenty of helpful advice. Most importantly, make friends in your classes, they are going to be with you for a while, especially if you are the same major.

There are also a strong variety of clubs and I can say there is at least one Asian Market night on campus each quarter. I'm more involved with my college's student council, where we plan events revolving around technology. Some huge events that occur on campus are: Winter Gamefest (a gaming convention promoting esports), Chocolate Festival (dip all the things in chocolate! and get some amazing chocolate samples), Sun God (a musical festival that has some pretty good lineups each year), Hullabaloo (a carnival event), Tritonfest (various activities and visitors that kicks off the year), there's a few more but can't think of them off the top of my head. Whoops, went on a tangent there. I'm also a part of Society of Women Engineers here, and I have met a lot of amazing friends. There's a huge variety of clubs you can be a part of on campus and finding a good fit for you.

UCSD also holds job fairs each quarter, which is a great opportunity to get to know some prospective companies you'd want to work for...and well getting some pretty sweet swag. 10/10 would recommend.

Okay I can probably say a lot of amazing things about UCSD because it's a really enjoyable environment here. One main con is if you want to get around to some really cool places around the area, a car is really convenient. However, getting a bus to Balboa Park/San Diego Zoo, the Beach, the Mall, nearby supermarkets are completely doable. Also! There are plenty of

buses that can take you to nearby Amtrak Stations (Old Town, Sorrento Valley, Oceanside, Solana Beach), so you can hop on a train to Union station and get back to LA in no time! Solana Beach is my personal favorite station because the bus drives down with an amazing view of the ocean and it's a really peaceful feeling, especially when going home.

Trying to think of some cons: OH! Depending on what college you get into, your life could be dramatically different from someone else in a different college. For example, Revelle has a lot of language art GE's compared to Sixth. Really understand what each college is primarily focused on and try to pick one that is a good fit for you and/or your major. I chose Sixth college since I'm a really artsy person and wanted to keep that part of my life with me especially since being an engineering major could take that free time away from me. And well it's part of the reason why I've been having an amazing time at UCSD. I love knowing art classes are a REQUIREMENT. If that isn't for you, there are plenty of other options through the other colleges, just be sure to read the different GE requirements. In order of which ones have the fewest to most, a rough guess for me would be muir=sixth=marshall->warren->erc ->revelle. Most GE's might line up with your major so make sure to double check in order to pick a strong fit.

If you have any questions or anything, don't be afraid to shoot me an email: amhu@ucsd.edu and I'll be more than happy to answer them!

- Community: Our school population is primarily Asian. But what I didn't know is that when they say UCSD is like 52% Asian, a very, very large majority of that population is international students. Especially in engineering and math. I've had several math discussion sections where the TA talks to the class in Chinese and then has to come and try to explain what he or she just said in very broken English to those of us who don't. There are still a decent amount of Asian Americans, but I think the Asian population is overwhelmingly international. It is becoming increasingly overpopulated, so if you wanted to live on campus for more than 2 years, the probability of that is incredibly low. Some freshmen now can't even get housing. But I think as a whole we are a pretty solid student body with a lot of diversity.

Culture: There's always a lot of cool events going on all over campus and there are a ton of ways to get involved in campus culture, especially because of our 6 college system. Living in the res halls is definitely probably the most fun thing I've experienced here, especially because of the way our housing is structured where we all live in suites or apartments, and not like a dorm hall or whatever. And we have Sun God. And a lot of other smaller concerts throughout the year, and there's always like some sort of festival or block party thing kind of going on so that's pretty cool.

Clubs: You'll probably hear this about every other school as well, but there's a club for everything here. So... yeah don't worry about that. Our school has a lot of ethnic clubs like Nikkei Student Union, Chinese American Student Association, Black Student Union etc. And then there are a lot of engineering clubs like IEEE, Engineers Without Borders and so on. It's also really easy to start a club too so... yeah.

Academics: They're pretty rigorous across all STEM majors, can't really speak on behalf of anything outside of that. You'll have pretty bad professors who are here for primarily research so you'll have to do a lot of self studying (at least in Electrical Engineering), but I'm pretty sure that's fairly typical across all UCs. You get a few good ones here and there, but for the most part they're not that great. You definitely learn a lot content wise but probably more importantly you learn how to learn things on your own. It's not a very hands on school like SLO, but you definitely learn a lot more in depth about things, and some people are more into that. And we still have labs too so you'll learn how to use all of the lab equipment relevant to your major anyways. But our academics have a reputation of being very strong, and they definitely are. With that being said, you can't for a second forget that you are \*competing\* with very intelligent people. You'll still have time to go out and join a club, get yourself a girlfriend, skip out on a few classes, but at the end of the day if you're not studying before you go to sleep (unless it's the weekend) then you're doing something wrong.

What type of student is successful: One who self studies /a lot/ and asks the TA's a lot of questions. The professor's office hours are pretty bad, they just kind of tell you to look over the lecture notes or call you an idiot for "not knowing this by week X." I mean they'll help you but in my experience the TA's have been far more helpful. And one who doesn't blame the professor/class material/American education system for their shortcomings. You gotta learn from your mistakes, and sadly enough, some people here still can't do that.

Weather: It's Southern California.

## What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- Office hours for classes, Academic advising for your major/minor, Resident Advisors, CAPS (for mental health well-being).
- Tutors on Campus are the best. There is also the library which is a nice work area to study when needed. There's a 3D printer you could "rent" for 3 hours where whatever you print is free and it's pretty fun to design things every once in a

while. Also, use the shuttle to get around campus. It's soooo useful especially when you don't feel like walking to the other side of campus.

I personally really like using the resources that they make you pay for, which other campuses should have as well such as: the bus and the gym.

Definitely talk to your counselors, they are extremely helpful in helping you figure out your classes. Especially because a lot of your college classes taken from DVS can be transferred into credit going into your GE classes.

- We have a pretty cool library.  
OASIS I think is like a place you can go for lower division course help.  
Depending on your major, some are very close knit so they always host study parties.  
The Jacobs School of Engineering has tutor sessions where undergrads who have already taken all lower division courses can help you  
Specifically for calculus they have huge tutor sections anyone can go to. I would imagine they also have tutor sessions for all lower div math.

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- Practice mindfulness. Don't take the moments of quietness for granted. Count the good things that you already have when it gets tough. And learn to accept and love yourself for who you are.
- College is hard. It is not hard like content is hard, but more of a different style of learning and testing that DVS might not prepare you for. It might take a while to adjust, however what DVS did teach you will be helpful for you in being the awesome student you already are. :D
- If you are strongly considering UCSD as your first choice, I advise you to think about several things:

-How badly do you want to graduate in 4 years? Especially with engineering, this is becoming incredibly rare due to our overpopulated student body. But I think this is common across all UCs.

-How important is living on campus to you after your first year?

-Do you speak Chinese? Because that will definitely help you out.

-What kind of education do you want? A more hands on one, or a lot of theory and in depth study?

-Do you need to be spoon-fed information to learn it, or can you research things and learn from them on your own?

I'll be honest and say that I think there are a lot of issues with UCSD that aren't going to go away any time soon, but I don't imagine any of the other UCs are perfect by any means, so pick your poison.

Personally, I've had a pretty good time here even though I've struggled and disagreed with decisions the university makes. The reason I would put "no" for recommending UCSD to a DV grad is because I feel like I can't recommend someone I don't know to come to this school. Some people will love it and some will hate it, and we definitely have both kinds of people at this school. I personally would recommend it for myself, but in some cases not for others. In the end my recommendation shouldn't matter anyways.

It really comes down to you researching the school on your own, coming down to visit (or at least talking to as many students/alumni as possible) to get a feel of what it's like to go here, and weighing your options based off of what you want to get out of your time in college.

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2013	Iwamoto, Marc (miwamoto@ucsd.edu)
2013	Lorenzo, Kyle
2013	Thongnoppakun, Kan
2013	Thongnoppakun, Kat
2014	Chapman, Martin
2014	Hu, Amy (amhu@ucsd.edu)

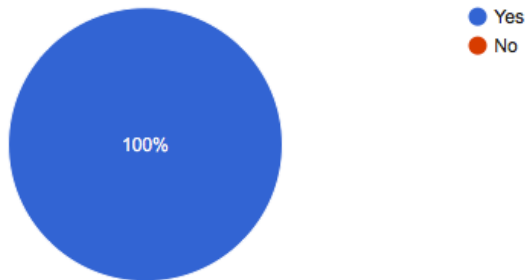
\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Santa Barbara

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- UCSB is a weird place for Angelenos because the food sucks and the diversity is poor at best here, but if you can find your niche (and trust me you can), it will be great. I am an activist and that is my home. I spend my time with all the people of color here who chose to fight against oppression. I know that sounds scary, but orgs like Students for Justice in Palestine, El Congresso, IDEAS, BSU, SCORE, and so much more are great places to meet people who understand your particular disdain for the lack of Korean bbq and street tacos. Even if you are afraid, go meet people see what they are about activist aren't militant vengeful people. If you are willing to learn, they are down to have you there. Academics is hard and even harder when you take into account the quarter system, so plan your time well. UCSB may seem like a really fun party school, but really think about your ability to tolerate entitled people because there is a lot of them and some times it leads to difficult situations. Above all reach out when you need help. Our counseling services are exceptional and DVS alumni who are here like myself are pretty helpful in a pinch.
- UCSB is an amazing school with overall great vibes. It's definitely not just a "party school" and has a lot of great things to offer. Competition is not really an issue here and everyone is really willing to help you out. There are so many clubs on campus, and it's probably one of the best ways to meet people and make friends. Also, the other people in your dorms/residence halls can end up becoming some of your best friends. The classes are college-level and you can't just slack off and hope for a good grade, you have to put in the time and effort in order to do well. Keeping up on your readings is probably one of the hardest things to do, but if you manage to do it, you're grades will be better because of it. UCSB is also a great place if you like living a staircase away from the beach and living in basically year-round paradise. The only downside I've encountered so far is that there is no Target within a 30 mile radius.
- Should expect a laid back community that's always full of activity and full of clubs that cover different interests. You're expected to put work in, but there's so much fun to be had by the beach that you're rewarded by managing your time correctly. If you hear it's a party school and are worried about that, you shouldn't be. There's the students that go out on the weekends and there's ones that don't, it's just like any other college (except Irvine maybe). Every academic program here is amazing and filled with professors who've been perfecting their craft for years, from Chemical Engineering to Global Studies to Physics to Environmental Sciences. Every student here is friendly and ready to help if you just ask, as well as the faculty. Anyone should have an amazing time at this school!

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- El Centro is the best building on campus. It is small, hard to find, and is sometimes labeled building 406 on a map, but it is all worth it when you walk in for the first time to see the beautiful murals and lovely people. It is a great place to study and meet people. CAPS which is counseling is also great. I go every 2 weeks just to make sure I am okay since I have an anxiety disorder and PDD. Student Health is also amazing for any health concern.
- CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services), CLAS (Campus Learning Assistance Services), and the different organizations aimed at helping minorities
- Your departmental advisors! They're kind and willing to help you through the rigorous and weird pre major and major requirements, as well as helping you prep if you want to study abroad! These people are your lifeline! Don't be shy to go visit them!

## Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- UCSB was not my top choice school, it was actually a 3rd/4th choice; however, if I had to go back I would never change the decision I made to come here. I turned down a more prestigious school because it cost too much and at the time I thought I was giving up my dream school because of money. However, the choice was not only smart for my family, but it ended up being the right choice. I absolutely love it here and do not regret choosing it one bit. Before you decide to commit to your dream school, take a step back and think about the bigger picture and what this "dream school" really means to you and how important is it for you to go there, because it may not be that important after all. Before choosing UCSB, I wish I would've known how much of a positive impact it would've had in my life. I spent too much of my senior year feeling bummed out that I wasn't going to NYU and instead was going to UCSB, when in fact there was no reason to feel that way. UCSB has changed my life for the better, and it may not be the place for everybody, but it was the place for me and that's what's most important. Make sure that wherever you go, it's the right fit for you, and if at some point you feel that it's not, don't be afraid to leave and find the place that is truly right for you.
- This is the richest whitest place I have ever lived and it was such a culture shock. We don't even have an Arabic market, and as someone who lives off pita bread, that is very distressing. Sometimes it feels like I am the darkest person in the room and no one can understand where I am from, let alone me. This school is not a paradise in the slightest, but honestly no university is. I love being here even if I don't love UCSB. The academics is great, our professors are awesome, our activists are incredible, but sometimes it feels like everyone else is against me. Part of that is because I am a WOC (Women of Color) and this place wasn't built for people like me, and some of these students have never seen a person like me. This is unfortunately quite common in higher level schools, but I promise you, the people you will call your family are here no matter who you are, it just takes some searching (and in my case 6 months).
- I wish I knew to buy my notebooks at home and not up here, they're way more expensive! Also Brita filter is a must or at least a pitcher for water is a must! Also just because it's by the beach doesn't mean it won't get cold! It gets to the low 40's here during winter and fall, so be prepared!

## Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2013	De La Torre, Ricardo
2013	Olivares, Sal
2013	Ramirez, JohnPaul
2013	Rosales, Nora
2014	Habash, Minal
2014	Rives, Alix

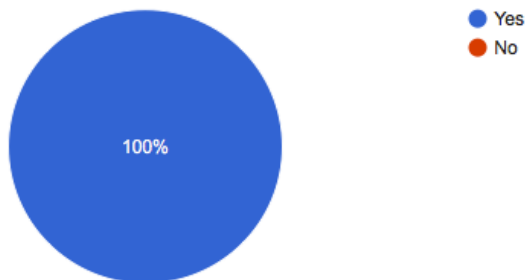
\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!

Advice from DVS alumni attending...



# University of California, Santa Cruz

Would you recommend your college to a DVS graduate?



Describe what students should expect from your school: community, culture, clubs, academics, what type of student is successful, weather, etc.

- Expect a lot of "hippie" like people. Expect the school to be dominated by a white/asian population. Expect the school and its students to be very liberal. Expect beautiful views.
- You should expect to become independent and make choices that will impact your future. It is a great experience but something you need to tend to and make sure everything is going as planned (in terms of classes, requirements for major and graduation, and following up on emails sent by staff). DVS really helped me prepare for what I needed to do in order to be successful independent. Because of this I am able to enjoy my time and have fun. The community is definitely progressive socially and is very chill, for lack of a better word. If you are interested in fraternity or sororities, there is that life here although not many of them. They are, from what I heard, very fun and you get a lot of contacts and friends. The weather here is beautiful but different from LA. It gets cold, but bearable and you get used to it. But beginning of fall and all of spring quarter are when it gets the hottest. You get the forest and the beach (plus the boardwalk is really fun: rides, arcade, mini golf, and more). The academics are good, most teachers care about their students although you won't get as much attention from them as DVS, but they do care. Here, you are able to have fun, but also do your work and be successful; you just need the balance.

What are your top recommended resources available on campus for students?

- Your major advisors and college advisors. Immediately fill out a 4 year planner so you know what classes to take on a quarterly basis.
- There are lots of sources on campus ranging from study aboard programs to services that will help you for a specific class. There is MSI(Modified Supplemental Instruction) tutoring that gives help to a group of about 10 specifically for the class you are taking. People in this program have a great chance to pass the class with above average scores.

Anything else? Something you wish you knew senior year about your school?

- Come to college with the mindset that you are coming here to learn and to graduate with one of the most expensive pieces of paper you will ever own. Work hard, have fun but most importantly get involved. Santa Cruz is known for its astounding research labs. If you are a STEM major get into them. They will help direct your career choices. In order to get into labs you will need professor letters of recommendation and mediocre grades (3.0 at a minimum). Get to know your professors early. Pick 4 of them and get them to remember you and to like you. Lastly, look into the ACE program. Great resource for STEM majors.
- Enjoy being with your family because I miss them very much. Enjoy eating homemade food because no matter how good your dining hall is, it is nothing compared to home cooked meals.

Alumni currently attending & available contact information\*:

2015	Akiba, Sami
2015	Donayre, Christopher
2013	Quinones, Agustin



2013	Rivera, Melissa
------	-----------------

*\* The survey alumni filled out added an email address option after many students had already taken it, so many of them didn't get a chance to offer their email. Ms. Kondo has contact info for most of these alumni if you need it!*