

My future career must be one that requires high-level economic thinking and econometric tools, as I have fallen in love with this way of thinking about the world during my undergraduate studies. Whether I am analyzing financial markets or researching environmental policy, I know that I will be satisfied if I can use economic reasoning. To achieve this goal, I must join a program where I will develop strong quantitative skills and learn how to apply those skills to real-world data. This makes UCLA's MQE program the perfect fit for me, as the combination of classroom rigor and the applied projects will enable me to chase the analytically demanding careers that I dream of having. The projects will not only develop my econometric and analytic skills but also give me an opportunity to explore the different areas where economic analysis can be applied.

Along with being confident that UCLA is the right program for me, I am also confident that my undergraduate studies have sufficiently prepared me to succeed at UCLA. First, my participation in the Student Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), where I researched Aristotle's political economy, demonstrated my ability to work independently, engage with secondary literature, and communicate my findings. The seminar-style approach to research during that time also challenged and developed my ability to give, receive, apply criticism. Second, I have challenged myself in economics by pursuing the B.S. degree, which required me to take Advanced Econometrics and Mathematics for Economics. Those classes have not only bolstered my interest in studying higher-level economics but have also prepared me for mathematical and analytical challenges through work in proofs, linear algebra, real analysis, non-linear regression, and causal inference models. Other classes, such as Public Economics and Environmental Economics, have shown me the real-world application of economics, which UCLA emphasizes through its data-driven courses. My coursework makes me excited to learn and work with Dr. Chetverikov because his papers combine topics from Mathematics for Economics and Econometrics, which are two of my favorite classes.

Along with my economics degree preparing me for success at UCLA, my philosophy degree provides me with a complementary skill set, as it has developed my ability to analyze, write, and communicate abstract ideas both on paper and orally. I also serve as the philosophy course tutor, where I do one-on-one tutoring and teach a skills course, which demonstrates my ability to collaborate and develop ideas independently. While the subject matter may be unrelated to economic analysis, the skills that I have developed in philosophy have fundamentally enhanced my ability to think as an economist. For example, the concept of utility is a cornerstone of economics, but it ultimately relies on philosophical assumptions about how one forms preferences. My philosophy degree has prepared me to think carefully about these assumptions that underlie our models. Thus, I am prepared not only for quantitative analysis but also for evaluating the underlying assumptions that are necessary in economic research.