

Alborz Jelvani

*IDEA Center's Spotlight on UCSD's
JUMP Coordinators*

Quick Facts

Grade: 4th year PhD Candidate

Major: Bioengineering

Outside interests: Learning new languages,
cooking, and 3D-printing



Questions about your experiences:

Why did you join JUMP? How has the JUMP program benefitted you and how have you helped others by being a JUMP coordinator?

As a first-generation college student who attended community college, I benefited from the expertise of many outstanding and humble mentors and teachers throughout my undergraduate journey. Understanding the value of mentorship in my career, I aim to continue to give back to individuals from community college and minoritized groups to find and pursue their scientific dreams and higher education. For these reasons, I joined JUMP initially as a Graduate mentor, and a year after, I had the opportunity to continue my efforts as a JUMP coordinator. I have been a part of this amazing, energetic, and collaborative group to create a community of newly admitted undergraduate students, especially those who are first-generation and from disadvantaged backgrounds, and peer and graduate mentors to provide social and professional development opportunities as well as mentorship year-round.

What notable extracurricular activities/organizations are you involved in and why did you get involved with them?

In addition to several teaching experiences, I have recently taken the first step towards formally preparing for teaching in an academic setting by taking part in “Introduction to College Teaching” at UCSD to develop an expertise in evidence-based effective teaching practices and to create a lesson plan to use in my discipline in the future. Observing students’ smiles after understanding a subject in STEM is enough satisfaction and motivation for me to continue to be an educator and have a positive impact on students’ learning for the rest of my life.

What are your plans for the future?

My first short-term goal is to finish my PhD. Although it is difficult to predict the future regarding where I land, I foresee my career to be in line with my passion for contributing to science and engineering, teaching, and mentorship.



From your experiences, what advice would you offer current students?

I would like to share some important advice that I received from my mentors or learned from my experiences.

- Talk to as many people as possible to learn about the nuances of your field of study, whether it is from your peers, professors, or industry professionals, to make an informed decision about your career goals.
- Take advantage of resources available to you on campus.
- Work hard and be ready for the opportunities.
- Challenge yourself and get involved because you learn more.
- Dream big, work hard, and don’t get distracted by naysayers.
- Pay attention to your physical and mental health.

