

# Destiny Alvarado

*IDEA Center's Spotlight on UCSD's  
Women in Engineering*

## Quick Facts

Grade: 4<sup>th</sup> Year (undergrad)

Major: Electrical Engineering

Outside interests: Hiking and crocheting



## Questions about your experiences:

**How has SWE (Society of Women Engineers) benefited you? How have you benefited others through SWE?**

SWE has provided me with a community of amazing people who are incredibly supportive, which I find is a necessity considering the academic rigor of engineering. As a member I have had the opportunity to mentor both undergraduate and high school students. I hope they have benefited from hearing my experience particularly the lows to show that perseverance goes a long way to getting an engineering degree.

## **What advice would you give to people who come from an underrepresented group in engineering, specifically women?**

School has incredibly stressful moments and coming from an underrepresented group self-doubt about one's ability to succeed in engineering tends to be higher. With that said I find it important to reach out to people who are in your corner to remind you that you are capable. As well as reflecting on what an achievement it is to be a student at a high caliber institution like UCSD.



## **Could you share with us your positive experiences in being a part of the IDEA Scholar and Gordon Scholar programs?**

Being an IDEA Scholar I attended the Summer Engineering Institute the summer before starting at UCSD and that introduced me to some of my closest friends. At the beginning I was pretty intimidated by the other Gordon Scholars but I quickly realized how kind in addition to how accomplished they all are. Overall it connected me with people who were willing to spend the time to rethink how they defined leadership which led to many interesting conversations.

## **What made you want to pursue a graduate degree? What advice would you give to someone who also wants to pursue a graduate degree but doesn't know where to start?**

I am excited about diving deeper into signal processing which I will be able to do with a graduate degree. Plus, I think a graduate degree can only help my career trajectory. I would encourage them to reach out to current graduate students whether that's your TA or someone from your student org who graduated and is pursuing a graduate degree. In my experience people are very willing to share their story which can help you give you an idea out where to start.



### **What are your plans for the next 2-3 years?**

I am fortunate to have received admission to multiple Master's programs in electrical engineering. Currently the main contenders are UCLA and the University of Washington. The plan is to finish my Master's from one of those programs in two years. Following graduation I hope to begin my career working full-time in the medical device industry. Along with staying active in professional SWE.

### **From your experiences, what advice would you offer current students in general?**

I would encourage them to not count yourself out. Imposter syndrome is real and there are great opportunities available, if you are brave enough to take the leap. Whether that be an internship, research position, or going to a student org meeting for the first time.



