



USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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Sameeksha Agrawal

Major: Biomedical Engineering,
with a mechanical emphasis

Minor: Connected Devices
and Making

Hometown: Glastonbury, CT

“I hope to join a medical device
company or startup as an
engineer—and later return
to school for a Master’s degree.”



Madeline Aguirre

Major: Communication

Minor: Entertainment Industry

Hometown: Sunnyvale, CA

“I have a job at Asa Nisi Masa Film
as an assistant to a film director,
and I have the goal of eventually
becoming a film producer.”



Kyle Ang

Major: Media Arts
and Practice

Hometown: San Gabriel
Valley, CA

“I hope to improve experiences
for behavioral health and
healthcare as a product
designer or user-experience
(UX) researcher.”

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Crisann Begley-Smith

Major: Theatre

Minor: Music Industry

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV

“After graduation, I will be working as a marketing coordinator while I continue to pursue acting.”



Ashely Benhayoun

Major: Health and Human Sciences & Psychology

Hometown: Dallas, TX

“I will be doing research, and I plan to apply to earn a PhD in clinical psychology in the next few years.”



Thomas Bhardwaj

Major: Business Administration

Hometown: Dana Point, CA

“I will be working as an investment banking analyst with Piper Sandler's medical technology team.”

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Argin Dermegerdichian

Major: Civil Engineering, with an emphasis in Structural Engineering

Master's Degree:

Structural Engineering

Hometown: Glendale, CA

"I plan to pursue a career in structural engineering and obtain a Professional Engineer (PE) license."



Kylie Feliciano

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: Marketing

Hometown: Boulder, CO

"I am interested in working in marketing in entertainment (film, esports, etc.)."



Kaitlyn Flores

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Minor: Computer Programming

Hometown: Honolulu, HI

"I am interested in working in the electric vehicle industry."

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Daniel Franco

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: Fullerton, CA

“I want to be a game programmer.”



Lisa Freedland

Major: Psychology

Hometown: Irvine, CA

“I hope to go into creative writing or screenwriting.”



Gabriel Gino David

Major: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Master's Degree: Health Administration

Hometown: Rialto, CA

“After graduating, I will serve as an administrative fellow at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. Throughout my career, I plan to utilize my knowledge in the U.S. healthcare system, serving minority communities.”

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Robin Goettsch

Major: Environmental Studies,
with an emphasis in Policy and
Management

Hometown: Evanston, IL

“I am interested in pursuing
a career that combines my
artistic talent with my passion
for environmentalism and
sustainability.”



Katya Gonzalez

Major: Human Biology
and Spanish

Minor: Education and Society

Hometown: Santa Barbara, CA

“I plan to pursue a degree in the
field of evolutionary biology.”



Sharon He

Major: Business Administration,
with an emphasis in Marketing

Minor: Public Relations and
Communication Design

Hometown: Alameda, CA

“I hope to combine my interests
in marketing analytics with creative
design through marketing roles
within the entertainment industry.”

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Kelly Koh

Major: Human Development and Aging

Hometown: Santa Clara, CA

“I hope to attend medical school and pursue a career in pediatrics.”



Ryan Moshtael

Major: Psychology

Minor: Occupational Science

Hometown: Chicago, IL

“I will enroll in an entry-level Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program, and I hope to become an occupational therapist.”



Aldo Naranjo

Major: Theatre, with an emphasis in Acting

Minor: Cinematic Arts

Hometown: Lakewood, CA

“I hope to develop a television series that I can write, direct and act in.”

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Christopher Neely

Major: Quantitative Biology

Minor: Computer Science

Hometown: Pico Rivera, CA

“I am interested in bioinformatics software engineering and genomics research.”



Brian Nlong Zhao

Major: Computer Engineering
and Computer Science & Applied
and Computational Mathematics

Minor: Music Recording
and Astronomy

Hometown: Bryan, TX, and
Shanghai, China

“I want to pursue a PhD in
computer science.”



Amber Pitts

Major: Psychology

Hometown: Fontana, CA

“I plan to work with at-risk children,
using creative outlets.”

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Emmanuel Salgado

Major: Civil Engineering,
with an emphasis in Construction

Hometown: Pomona, CA

“I will be starting work as a field
engineer at Turner Construction.”



Yahm Steinberg

Major: Theatre, with an
emphasis in Acting

Minor: Musical Theatre

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV

“I will be pursuing a career in acting –
primarily in film/tv, voiceover and musical
theatre. I am also interested in pursuing
a career as a singer-songwriter in tandem
with my work as an actor.”

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Sara Sturek

Major: Creative Writing & Communication

Hometown: Syosset, NY

“I will be attending graduate school to earn an MFA in poetry.”



Jaryn Valdry

Major: Communication

Minor: Music Industry and Classical Saxophone

Hometown: Charleston, SC

“I plan to work at a major record label in the music industry.”