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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”
USC Associates Senior Scholars
2021-2022

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.”