Fall quarter/semester 2026

About you

Personal information

First / Given name	**Nikunj**
Last / Family / Surname	**Govil**
When were you born?	**September 20, 2007**
Where were you born?	**Palo Alto, CA United States**
Attended California public school	**No**

Contact information

Home address (permanent)

Address line 1	**2014 Crist Drive**
City	**Los Altos**
State	**California**
ZIP code	**94024**
Country	**United States**

Mailing address

Address line 1	**2014 Crist Drive**
City	**Los Altos**
State	**California**
ZIP code	**94024**
Country	**United States**
Primary phone number	**(650) 680-5102**
Phone type	**Cell/Mobile**
Authorized for text messages	**Yes**
Authorized to share contact information	**Yes**

Citizenship & residency

Country of citizenship	**United States**

Social security no / ITIN	XXX-XX-2954
Are you an enrolled member of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe (U.S.)?	No
By the time you attend UC, will you have graduated from a California high school?	Yes
By the time you attend UC, will you have attended a California school for three or more years during grades K through 12?	Yes

Demographics

Ethnicity / Ancestry

Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?	No
Asian / Asian American	Asian Indian

Gender and sexual orientation

How do you describe yourself?	Man
What do you consider yourself to be?	Heterosexual or straight

Your background

What language did you learn to speak first?	English only
Dependent of a U.S. military veteran or service member	No

Your household

Who lives with you at your permanent home address?	Two parents
How many people were supported by this income?	4

Parent information

No parent information entered To do

Statement of Legal Residence

Would you like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes?	Yes
Have you been physically present in California for the last 3 years?	Yes
Did you attend high school in California for three or more years, and will you graduate or have you graduated from a high school in California?	Yes
What is your current or planned immigration status in the United States?	Citizen of the United States
Have you and your parents established California as your permanent home for the past 366 days or more?	Yes
Are your parents married to each other?	Yes

Has Parent 1 been physically present in California for the last 3 years?	**Yes**
Has Parent 2 been physically present in California for the last 3 years?	**Yes**
Is Parent 1 a U.S. Citizen?	**Yes**
Is Parent 2 a U.S. Citizen?	**Yes**
I declare the statements are true and correct.	**Yes**
I understand this does not guarantee a Resident Classification for UC tuition.	**Yes**

Campuses & Majors

UC values

UC values	**Accepted**

Level

Term	**Fall 2026**
Level	**First-year**

Choose campuses

UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC Merced
UC Riverside
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz

Estimated cost: **$720**

Choose majors

Campus	Major
UC Berkeley	**Mathematics, Applied, B.A.** College of Letters and Science Alternate major **Mathematics, B.A.** College of Letters and Science
UC Davis	**Applied Mathematics, B.S.** College of Letters and Science **Mathematics, A.B./B.S.** College of Letters and Science

UC Irvine	**Applied and Computational Mathematics, B.S.** School of Physical Sciences **Mathematics, B.S.** School of Physical Sciences
UCLA	**Mathematics, Applied (Pre), B.S.** College of Letters and Science **UCLA does not offer alternate majors.**
UC Merced **Applied Mathematical Sciences, B.S.** **Environmental Emphasis** School of Natural Sciences	**Applied Mathematical Sciences, B.S.** **Computer Science Emphasis** School of Natural Sciences
UC Riverside	**Mathematics, B.A./B.S.** College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences **Alternate major not selected.**
UC San Diego	**Mathematics, Applied, B.S.** School of Physical Sciences **Mathematics, B.S.** School of Physical Sciences
UC Santa Barbara	**Applied Mathematics, B.S.** College of Letters and Science **Mathematics, B.S.** College of Letters and Science
UC Santa Cruz	**Applied Mathematics, B.S.** The Jack Baskin School of Engineering **Mathematics, B.A.** All Colleges

Do you want to select and rank your top 4 UC San Diego colleges? **Yes**

UC San Diego college ranking

Rank	College
	Seventh College
	Eleanor Roosevelt College
	Revelle College

2	John Muir College
1	Earl Warren College
	Thurgood Marshall College
3	Sixth College
4	Eighth College

Academic History

Introduction

Your academic history — essentially, the courses and grades from all schools you've attended while in high school — is just one of the factors we look at to ensure you're prepared for college-level work.

If you took high school-level math or language other than English in middle school (7th and 8th grades), you will have a chance to report those courses and grades in this section.

Make sure you refer to your transcripts (or academic records) as you fill out any information — don't enter information from your memory. It's important to report all of your schools, courses and grades exactly as they would appear on official transcripts or academic records.

7th & 8th grade

Courses

Subject Area	Course Name	Term Period
Algebra I	Algebra I	Full Year

Has International Experience **No**

High schools

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
CUPERTINO, CA

School code	**053462**
Grading system	**A B C D F**
Term system	**Semester**
Attended	**August 2022 - June 2026**
Grades attended	**9th grade** 2022 - 2023 **10th grade** 2023 - 2024 **11th grade** 2024 - 2025 **12th grade** 2025 - 2026
School you will graduate from:	**Yes**
Degree, diploma or certificate	**High/Secondary School Diploma**

Date received or to be received **June 2026**

9th grade

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
CUPERTINO, CA

2022 - 2023 academic year

Subject area/Course category	Course name	Hnrs	Term	G1	G2	G3	G4	Language name
B-English	Literature and Writing	NH	Semester	A	A			
C-Geometry	Geometry Enriched	NH	Semester	A	A			
D-Biology / Life Sciences	Biology	NH	Semester	B	B			
E-LOTE Level 1	Spanish 1	NH	Semester	A	A			Spanish
G-Mathematics - Computer Science	Computer Programming Java	NH	Semester	B	B			

10th grade

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
CUPERTINO, CA

2023 - 2024 academic year

Subject area/Course category	Course name	Hnrs	Term	G1	G2	G3	G4	Language name
A-World History/ Cultures/ Hist. Geography	World History	NH	Semester	A	B			
B-English	World Literature and Writing	NH	Semester	B	A			
C-Algebra II	Algebra 2/Trigonometry	NH	Semester	A	A			
C-Computer Science	AP Computer Science A (AP)	AP	Semester	B	B			
D-Chemistry	Chemistry Honors	HL	Semester	A	A			
E-LOTE Level 2	Spanish 2	NH	Semester	A	A			Spanish

11th grade

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
CUPERTINO, CA

2024 - 2025 academic year

Subject area/Course category	Course name	Hnrs	Term	G1	G2	G3	G4	Language name
A-U.S. History	AP United States History (AP)	AP	Semester	B	A			
B-English	American Literature and Writing	NH	Semester	A	A			

C-Other Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus Honors	HL	Semester	A	A	
D-Physics	AP Physics 1 (AP)	AP	Semester	B	A	
E-LOTE Level 3	Spanish 3	NH	Semester	B	A	Spanish

12th grade

HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL
CUPERTINO, CA

2025 - 2026 academic year

Subject area/Course category	Course name	Hnrs	Term	G1	G2	G3	G4	Language name
A-Civics / American Government	AP Government and Politics United States (AP)	AP	Semester	IP	PL			
B-English	Contemporary Literature and Writing	NH	Semester	IP	PL			
C-Calculus	AP Calculus BC (AP)	AP	Semester	IP	PL			
D-Physics	AP Physics C: Mechanics (AP)	AP	Semester	IP	PL			
F-Visual Arts	Photography	NH	Semester	IP	PL			

Colleges attended while in high school

DE ANZA COLLEGE
ALL LOCATIONS, CA

College code:	004286
Grading system:	A B C D F
Term system:	Quarter
Attended:	January 2026 - March 2026
Grades attended:	12th grade: Winter 2026

UC SANTA CRUZ
SANTA CRUZ, CA

College code:	004860
Grading system:	A B C D F
Term system:	Quarter
Attended:	July 2025 - August 2025
Grades attended:	11th grade: Summer 2025

College courses taken in high school

DE ANZA COLLEGE
ALL LOCATIONS, CA

College code: 004286
Grading system: A B C D F

12th Grade - Winter 2026

Dept.	Course No.	Course title	Units	Honors status	Grade	Subject area	Language name
MATH	2A	Differential Equations	5.0	CL	PL	C-Other Advanced Mathematics	

UC SANTA CRUZ
SANTA CRUZ, CA

College code: 004860
Grading system: A B C D F

11th Grade - Summer 2025

Dept.	Course No.	Course title	Units	Honors status	Grade	Subject area	Language name
Math	23B	Vector Calculus	5.0	CL	B	C-Other Advanced Mathematics	

Additional information

Test Scores

To do

AP exams

Exam name	Date taken	Score	Planned date
Calculus BC			05/2026
Computer Science A	05/2024	3	
Physics 1	05/2025	5	
Physics C: Mechanics			05/2026
U.S. Government and Politics			05/2026
U.S. History	05/2025	4	

IB exams

I have no test score information to report

English language proficiency test

I have no test score information to report

International exams

I have no test score information to report

Activities & Awards

Activities/Awards

1. Educational preparation program

Program name

UCB Bair Lab, AI Program

Program description

Learning to code python was very fun and I found it intuitive after learning Java. It was great to expand to other languages and understand how the code worked. Made an AI program to detect the tone of sentences while learning the building blocks of AI like the neural framework. It was humbling to realize the complexity and how often models failed.

Grade participation

10th grade

Time commitment

35.0 hours per week

1.0 weeks per year

2. Educational preparation program

Program name

UCB Bio Lab, Biotech Genetics

Program description

Used CRISPR technology to change gene expression in bacteria. Learned about applications of CRISPR like creating climate resistant crops. Debated the ethical issues of gene editing, finding multiple perspectives including the Devil's Advocate, building nuanced understanding. Through this I learned helpful insight into what can be done and how.

Grade participation

10th grade

Time commitment

35.0 hours per week

1.0 weeks per year

3. Educational preparation program

Program name

EBAYS Children & Lead Exposure

Program description

Collected soil samples to measure lead pollution from paint and gas from a wealthy and poor neighborhood in Oakland. Found increased funding for removing lead from wealthier neighborhoods and saw how lead could have a direct effect on people like lowering IQ in children by blocking neural pathways. Created a research paper using what I learned.

Grade participation

11th grade

Time commitment

4.0 hours per week

6.0 weeks per year

4. Educational preparation program

Program name

UCB, ROAR AI Academy

Program description

Even though I already knew python, this program taught me a deeper understanding that I used to make an AI model to can drive a car and perform manuevers like parallel parking and managing steep turns. I gained useful insight into working with a team and resolving issues as we worked together to code a model and present an application of AI

Grade participation

10th grade

Time commitment

25.0 hours per week

2.0 weeks per year

5. Volunteer / Community service

Organization, group or program name

CSF

Organization, group or program description

CSF

Description of volunteer experience

Volunteered at various locations like libraries and school events, making friends. I also found an almost meditative peace in physical work like setting up decorations or moving tables because I can focus on the objective and know that I am making a difference. Being able to see my contributions in a large goal makes me feel satisfied.

Grade participation

10th grade

11th grade

12th grade

Time commitment

2.0 hours per week

6.0 weeks per year

6. Extracurricular activity

Activity name

Club President

Activity description

I initiated school-wide competitions, and brought over 12 permanent members to the club that was almost empty. I help people get faster and to work with different shapes. Created peaceful environment by making sure everyone can participate combined with shared interest. I love this club because I am sharing my passion I started in 6th grade.

Grade participation

9th grade

10th grade

11th grade

12th grade

Time commitment

1.0 hours per week

18.0 weeks per year

7. Extracurricular activity

Activity name

Science Olympiad, JV

Activity description

Competed in tournaments about science topics like optics or geology. Really enjoyed the math in optics and how geology explains the world. Competing against others motivates me to try harder. Through collaboration with my partner we always learned from our mistakes and studied, and were eventually able to beat the varsity team in a tournament

Grade participation

11th grade

Time commitment

1.5 hours per week

32.0 weeks per year

8. Extracurricular activity

Activity name

Tech Challenge 2022-2023

Activity description

With a team, we made a prototype model for wind resistance of buildings over the span of a few months. After testing many models, we were able to pass the most of the evaluation except the end. Even though we didn't win, I learned an important lesson that even with a plan, things can go wrong and it is best to always plan for issues ahead of time.

Grade participation

9th grade

Time commitment

2.0 hours per week

30.0 weeks per year

9. Extracurricular activity

Activity name

Polygence Research

Activity description

Not finished

Grade participation

11th grade

12th grade

Time commitment

5.0 hours per week

16.0 weeks per year

10. Other coursework

Course name

UCSC Vector Calculus

Course description

In 30 days, I essentially took the second half of an advanced multivariable calculus college course. Despite the immense effort required to do a typically semester long course in 30 days, without an official Calculus class beforehand, I dedicated my time and finished the course.

Grade participation

11th grade

Time commitment

15.0 hours per week

4.0 weeks per year

11. Extracurricular activity

Activity name

Weights Club Secretary

Activity description

To be written

Grade participation

9th grade

10th grade

11th grade

12th grade

Time commitment

1.0 hours per week

36.0 weeks per year

Scholarships & support programs

Scholarships

Academic major or interest

- Mathematics, biological or physical sciences
- Physics

Career plans

- Career interests in teaching, research, or public service
- Environmental protection
- Teaching

Extracurricular activities & work experience

- Participates in extracurricular activities
- Student who has demonstrated academic excellence as well as leadership in extracurricular

activities

- Student who is not now and does not plan to become a member of a social fraternity or sorority, other than an honor society

School or geographic affiliation

- California born

Support programs

None selected.

Personal Insight

Introduction

Personal insight questions

Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

When I was in 2nd grade, I discovered origami and was fascinated by the possibilities. I asked my parents for a stack of origami paper, and before I knew it, I went through all 150 sheets, learning many different techniques along the way like different origami bases like the square and bird base. I continued my interests, using any old scratch paper, learning more advanced designs like origami flashers where the paper collapses inward in a pattern.

All throughout elementary and middle and even high school, I would make increasingly complex designs, increasing precision as needed. As time passed, I would start to understand the underlying geometry of different folds like the petal fold and closed sink without even realizing it. Eventually, I developed the ability to visualize how 3-dimensional models would look like folded in my head, simply by looking at a collection of flat crease lines on a paper. These visual were very helpful as I folded complex designs like anatomically accurate insects.

After many years of folding origami, I took a step into the unknown and began the process of creating my own designs. I decided to make an ostrich for my first original model. From just one picture of an ostrich, I was surprised to realize I could visualize an origami version in my head using a sort of geometric intuition I had developed from years of folding. I could clearly see what origami base and what folds I could use to best sculpt the model for the right amount of limbs and details. Even though it was not perfect, it was very motivating to see my years of practice coming to use, and I wanted to do even better.

I have come to realize that creativity to me is all about problem-solving and applying various types of solutions. As I learn more, I strive to use these principles of problem-solving everywhere.

What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

I had just come back from school and I immediately logged on to chess.com. I solved chess puzzle after chess puzzle, taking as much time as to fully analyze each position: searching for possible weaknesses to exploit, visualizing future outcomes of different moves I could make, all while making sure I was not falling for a trap from my opponents. Many days I would often spend over three hours practicing, no matter at school or at home. Through dedicated, focused time, I learned many strategies. After just a few months, I reached 2300 ELO on puzzles, reaching the 98th percentile of chess puzzlers.

This is just one example of how I pursue interests obsessively. Other passions I have obsessed over include memorizing trivia like all 220+ countries and territories with their associated capitals and hundreds of digits of pi, and getting to the point of averaging 14 seconds on a 3 by 3 Rubik's Cube. In these sprints I learn as much as I possibly I can about my interest and gain skill very rapidly. As I learned more about my own academic interests, I took advantage of my learning capability. After discovering my interest in math during 11th grade, I set the goal of mastering multivariable calculus before the beginning of 12th grade, despite only being in precalculus during 11th. After finishing AP Calculus BC in

Khan Academy, I enrolled in a one-month vector calculus course. I spent 15+ hours per week, into the first 2 weeks of school, to finish the course which covered the same content as a Multivariable calculus course.

If I had to name my greatest skill, I would say it is my ability to immerse myself in any subject I'm interested in and master it quickly. As I went through high school and learned more about myself, I've become able to direct this skill to accomplish great results in a variety of settings like learning Calculus 1 through 3 in one summer. My ability to immerse

myself in passions leaves me no doubt that I can face various challenges to come my way.

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

AI has always seemed almost magical to me. How could a hard coded computer learn and solve problems? Even after making a few AI models previously, I was still confused, and I wanted to learn more. At the same, I was growing my passion for mathematics and I loved how equations could model the real world. I had previously heard about the Navier-Stokes equation: an equation requiring immense resources to calculate fluid flow, and I realized AI was a common approach for its use in practical situations, so I wanted to create my own version.

I was accepted into a mentorship research program, but it seemed like such a daunting task that I did not know how to even start. Resources were available online, but I barely understood the innumerable terms involved in describing machine learning. With the guidance of my mentor, I found online tutorials and searched up every single term and concept I did not grasp, and then did the same for research papers about similar topics. The seemingly impossible task slowly started to seem achievable as I was able to understand the process and techniques used in advanced research papers.

I started to code my machine learning model, coming across frequent road blocks, yet I did not give up. After some time, I was able to get my first model running, however it ended up performing very minimally. I had to ask for help from others frequently, as I was still new to the topic and wanted to learn more to fix the issue. Eventually, I was able to get a successful model.

I had no idea how many problems I would come across throughout this process, yet I was able to succeed by learning the importance of asking for help. ---(unfinished)

Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Everything about math changed for me in 11th grade when I took Precalculus Honors. My teacher explained the concept of derivatives, and it felt like a whole new world. Until that point, I had little idea how advanced mathematics worked, and didn't understand the value of my algebra classes until now, when I realize how everything I had learnt up until this point could be viewed through a calculus perspective.

I decided to learn Calculus 1, 2 on Khan Academy and finished it in a few weeks, getting a 5 on a Princeton Review practice AP test. Then, I took a one-month second semester Vector calculus course at UC Santa Cruz all in the summer so I could learn more, and luckily the course covered all the main topics in multivariable calculus as well. Things I had previously assumed as fact without question I finally understood, like the formula for the volume of a sphere, which I could now calculate using integrals. Even as I learn all of this, I realize that this is still just the very beginning of advanced math, and to continue learning, I decided to enroll to take a Differential Equations class for my second semester of senior year. However, I still ended up taking AP Calculus BC in my senior year because I wanted to gain a more thorough calculus foundation. Despite getting a 5 on the practice AP test, I am sure I did not learn everything from the course, and I did not want to be lacking in any knowledge.

I often research about math topics and riddles that puzzle me if I can't figure it out myself. Some of my favorites were realizing why integration works, how the Monty Hall Problem manipulates probability, and the Riemann Zeta Function,

a function that can describe a series of all real numbers from 1 to infinity. I often repeat an explanation of any topic, until I can explain it neatly myself.

There is so much more I want to learn about, from discrete math to combinatorics to topology, and I can't wait to learn more.

Additional comments

None reported