

Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship - Peninsula

Deadline : February 28 2021 at 11:59 PM PST (Midnight)

Applicant Information

Name: Otoniel Carreon
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Last IP Address: 34.98.67.249

Personal Information

Name

First name	Otoniel
Middle name	Isai
Last name	Carreon
Preferred name	Otoniel

Current address

Address line 1	1855 Woodside Rd
Address line 2	APT 207
City	Redwood City
State	California
Zip or postal code	94061

Contact Info

Email	ocarreon24@gmail.com
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Cell phone number	650-679-3797
Is cell phone text capable?	yes
Home phone number	000-000-0000
Preferred contact method	Cell phone

Other Personal Information

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	02/11/2003
I identify my gender as ...	Man
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino

High School you attend
(Note: You must attend one of the listed high schools in order to be eligible to apply. If you do not, you may seek "special approval" by emailing carol@poescholarships.org, but you must have an email confirming you received special approval to be considered.)

Woodside High School

If you selected "Special Approval" above, please enter the high school you attend.

Were you born in the US?	Yes
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If you weren't born in the US, what year did you move to the United States?

I participate in a Youth Program (check all that apply)

I currently have a mentor who will also be mentoring me in college.	No
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Financial Information

Financial Information - Parents Background

Please tell us about your living situation. For example:

- "My parents are married and I live with them and my 2 sisters."
- "My father died and my mother remarried and I live with my mom and step-dad and 2 step-brothers."
- "I live with my grandmother and 3 cousins. I see my mom on weekends."

Living situation:

My parents are married and I am living with one brother. During Covid near the end of 2020, my family went through contracting the virus and my dad went to the hospital for about three or four weeks. This caused him to not be able to work and during that time we became financially unstable. We now struggle to get the amount of money for rent since the bay area is unforgiving in prices.

Please indicate your parents current marital status - you may pick more than one answer. (If your parents were divorced and your mom is remarried, then choose both "divorced" and "mother remarried".)

Married

If your parents are separated or divorced, please indicate here if you live with a step-parent.

Did either of your parents attend college?

Yes

If either or both of your parents attended college, please list the name of the college below and which parent attended.

What is your mother's name?

Ana Acosta

Your mother's current job status is:

Employed full time

What is your mother's occupation and current or last employer? (Ex: Retail Sales at Target, housekeeper, electrician... or enter "None")

Daycare Worker

What is your mother's yearly income?

18000

Is this your mother or step-mother ?

mother

What is your father's name?

Jorge Carreon

Your father's current job status is:

Employed full time

What is your father's occupation and current or last employer? (Ex: Retail Sales at Target, housekeeper, electrician... or enter "None")	Delivery Driver
What is your father's yearly income?	33000
Is this your father or step-father?	father
On whom are you presently dependent for your primary financial support?	both mother and father (or step-parents)
If you chose guardian or other, please explain. Did you answer the questions above with your guardians information or your parents?	

Financial Income, Expenses and Savings

Check your household's total ANNUAL income from all sources, including step-parent: (do not include your income)	\$20,001 - \$40,000
What is the amount of child support payments, social security or other benefits the student receives each year?	0
Current value of parent's/guardian's Cash, Savings and Checking accounts?	8000
Current value of any investments: Stocks, Bonds, CD's, Mutual Funds, Education Savings accounts, 529 plans, and any investment income.	0
Current value of any Real Estate (other than the home you live in) and location of property.	0
Please describe any other types of income/savings that will help with your education: (Are there any relative's savings, bank accounts in other countries, trusts, or mentor/other adult paying some of your expenses?): If none, please enter "NONE"	NONE

Do your parents file taxes? If yes, please see the question below to attach a copy.	Yes
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Please attach a copy of your parents most recent tax forms (2019 or 2020). You can cross off any social security numbers to maintain your privacy before uploading.

You can upload 2 files if you need to. If you don't have a scanner, take a photo of the front and back of your 1040 tax form and upload those 2 photos. If you can't attach them electronically, please email Carol Mullin at carol@poescholarships.org so you can send them in.

Scannable Document on Feb 28, 2021 at 9_24_58 PM.png

Attach 2nd Tax File if needed:	Scannable Document 2 on Feb 28, 2021 at 9_24_58 PM.png
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Current value of your personal (not your parents) cash, savings, checking and/or investment accounts, including trust accounts, education savings accounts, 529 plans, stocks, savings bonds, etc: (if none, please enter "0")	300
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Financial - Housing and Cars

Do you own or rent your home?	Rent
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What is your monthly payment?	2500
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If you own your home, what is the market value of your house? (If you don't own, write "0".)	0
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If you own, what is the amount still owed on your loan? (If you don't own, write "0".)	0
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If anyone besides your parents/guardian contributes to your monthly rent or mortgage payments, please enter their name(s) and how much they pay. (If only your parents pay, then write "NONE".)	NONE
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**Please list the make, model and year of any cars your family owns.
If you have a loan on a car, please indicate how much.**

Example:

Honda, Civic, '09, loan of \$3,000

Toyota, Camry, '11, no loan

Toyota, Camry, '20, 23000
Honda, CRV, '18, 27000

Calculated Field - you can't edit this field:	30000
Your YEARLY rent/mortgage	

Calculated Field (You can't change this):	21000
(Your Yearly Income) MINUS (Your Yearly Rent/Mortgage)	

If the number above is NEGATIVE, your total yearly rent/mortgage exceeds your total yearly income as you have entered them - please explain. (For example, you have an older sibling who helps with rent or a step parent...) If not, please enter N/A. Do NOT enter N/A if the number above is NEGATIVE!

N/A

Financial - Who lives in your household

Please enter the total number of ALL persons CURRENTLY living in your household, including yourself.	4
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Person #1:	
Name and relationship to you:	Ana Acosta, Mother
Ex: Maria Alvarez, mother	

Age:	54
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Person #2:	
Name and relationship to you:	Jorge Carreon, Father

Age:	58
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Person #3	
Name and relationship to you:	Josue Carreon, Brother

Age:	23
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Do you have another member of your household?	No
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Financial - Other Scholarships or Special Circumstances

Please briefly describe any special family or financial circumstances, including any siblings in college or other relatives dependent on your family income:

My brother is in college currently and is paying off college while also still living with my parents. He is dependent on my parent's wages for now.

Will you or have you completed the FAFSA?	YES
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If you completed FAFSA, what is your EFC (Expected Family Contribution)?	0
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Will you or have you completed the Dream Act form to receive a Cal grant?	NO
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Have you qualified for Free or Reduced Lunch at your school in 2020-21?	NO
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Have you applied for any other scholarships besides Pursuit of Excellence? (Do NOT include the FAFSA)	YES
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If YES, please list the names of the scholarships below:

College Fund Program Scholarship

Have you been awarded any of these scholarships? If so, please list them and the amount you've received:

No award yet

College/University Information

College/University Information

College/University #1	UC Los Angeles
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College/University #2	UC Berkeley
College/University #3	UC San Diego
College/University #4	Azusa Pacific (accepted)
College/University #5	Pepperdine

Major #1

Computer Science - I'm interested in this because of the amount of creativity needed along with math to solve challenging problems. As an intro class, I learned python, a coding language, and considering I knew no tricks I hand wrote all my code into single lines. The fact that learning to code in different languages is like learning a real language is attractive and interesting. Also, because I like to play videogames, I've always been intrigued by what makes the videogame I'm playing on.

Major #2

Philosophy - I'm interested in this Major because of its versatility in mindset. Overall my favorite class for the past two years has been English because of the challenge it gives me. I'm not the best at writing but I absolutely love analyzing and finding new ways of thinking. One way I apply that is to my religion as being a Christian often motivates me to ask difficult questions in hope that maybe God will answer them.

Profession/Career

I would love to primarily be a Computer Scientist because, despite the shallowness of the answer, it makes money. All my life I've been focused on one thing, bringing my family some blessing after a struggle filled life. I am grateful to have a mother and father who have supported me and I want to find a career that suits the needs of my family and not simply myself. Also, going back to before, I would like to someday create a videogame, however small. Something I can be proud of.

Academics, Employment, Activities, Awards and Honors

Academics

What is your Unweighted Academic GPA (9-12 grade)?	3.67
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What is your Weighted Academic GPA (9-12 grade)?	3.96
What was your score on the Writing and Language SAT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	670
What was your score on the Math SAT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it.)	630
Total SAT Score	1300
What was your English score on the ACT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	0
What was your Math score on the ACT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	0
What was your Reading score on the ACT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	0
What was your Science score on the ACT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	0
What was your composite score on the ACT? (Enter 0 if you didn't take it)	0

If you took any AP classes, please list them below, along with your score on the AP test (if you took it). Write NONE if you took no AP classes.

Ex:
 AP US History, 3
 AP Spanish Lit, taking test this May

AP Calculus AB - 3
 AP Calculus BC - (taking may)
 AP Biology - 3
 AP English Language - 4
 AP English Literature - (taking may)
 AP Physics - (taking may)
 AP Computer Science A - 2
 AP Computer Science Principles - 4
 AP Spanish Language - 5
 AP Spanish Literature - 3

Are you currently taking courses in the IB program?	No
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Please upload a copy of your transcript through first semester senior year. It does not need to be an official copy of your transcript. If you have trouble, you can take a picture of your transcript and upload it. If you have trouble uploading, please email Carol Mullin at carol@poescholarships.org.

WoodsideTranscript2021.pdf

Employment

Please enter your total earnings for the last 12 months. If you haven't earned any money, enter 0. Note, we are not asking how much you saved, just how much you earned.

0

How many hours a week do you work?

0

How old were you when you started working? If you have not earned any money, please explain (for example, taking care of siblings). We want to understand the reasons you have not earned any money when you are applying for a financial needs based scholarship.

Over the course of High School my parents have been very persistent in convincing my brother and I to focus on our schoolwork. Considering every year since sophomore year there has been at least one AP class in my schedule, usually around 3 or 4 at a time, I've been having to keep up with that and extracurriculars. Much of my time went into the sport such as cross country and track which helps my mental state through high school and now. Also, my focus goes on community service and religious responsibility. I organize an event called Youthnited where we have a youth organized and attended the event to create relationships between the schools of the bay area. I never had a job because I knew that cashing a check now would compare little to cashing a check at a real career and through it all, my parents gave their all to life us up in every way possible.

Name of Company and Employer #1 NONE

Dates Worked: (Example 1/15/15 - 9/22/16)

Number of hours per week

Briefly describe your responsibilities and duties (Max. 100 words)

Do you have another Job/Employer	No
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Extracurricular Activities

Activity #1 - Description:

Youthnited - The event molded school and church by contacting different Christian clubs around the Bay area from various schools together and having a single night of fellowship. Over three years I became a tier 2 worker, volunteer, drummer, and now an executive. I am tasked with organizing the whole event and giving everyone who volunteers a job. The main focus of my job is to oversee every action for every committee and guide the volunteers to not only do their job but understand jobs throughout the years so when the time comes there is someone to take my job.

Activity #1 - Dates you did this activity: (For example, 10th and 11th grade OR 1/1/12 to 3/31/12)

10th, 11th, 12th Grades

Activity #1 - List the number of hours per week you spent on this activity

7

Do you have another Activity?

Yes

Activity #2 - Description:

Christian Club - I was a Christian club Founder for my school which went without a club for several years. In the first year, I gained around 15 members who all got together once a week and learned about the bible with videos and talking to each other. We had a few guest speakers who attended and we had games to test our understanding. We would constantly discuss and talk about our own experiences and the club became more of a fellowship where faith and experience would combine.

Activity #2 - Dates you did this activity: (For example, 10th and 11th grade OR 1/1/12 to 3/31/12)

10th, 11th Grade

Activity #2 - Please list the number of hours per week you spent on this activity
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1

Do you have another Activity?

Yes

Activity #3 - Description:

Cross Country - Cross country is a huge commitment. The workouts are difficult and are made to test our ability and thus grow it as well. Throughout the year we practice almost every day or are expected to run a certain amount of mileage every day. We practice year-round and during seasons we are dominant. I have learned many life lessons when it comes to running and the pain or endurance that comes with running fast continually. I try to apply running to all areas of my life to become better.

Activity #3 - Dates you did this activity:

(For example, 10th and 11th grade
OR 1/1/12 to 3/31/12)

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Activity #3 - Please list the number of hours per week you spent on this activity

25

Do you have another Activity?

Yes

Activity #4 - Description:

Rona Tutoring - In Rona tutoring, my friends and I volunteer to tutor kids from all over the nation with all varieties of subjects. We tutor middle school students all the way to high school students. Overall, students are able to learn from what we know and Rona tutoring is completely free. The organization is run and founded by high school students around the bay area including some of my colleagues.

Activity #4 - Dates you did this activity:

(For example, 10th and 11th grade
OR 1/1/12 to 3/31/12)

12th

Activity #4 - Please list the number of hours per week you spent on this activity

4

Do you have another Activity?

Yes

Activity #5 - Description:

Worship team - During church hours, I not only help set up all of the instruments for the church and bring them down, but I also help with music and began learning Drumming there. The church has been shifting over the years and people have come and gone but we still set up and close up every Sunday and usually, if not for covid, Thursday for worship practice, as well as Friday for church service and Tuesday.

Activity #5 - Dates you did this**activity:****(For example, 10th and 11th grade
OR 1/1/12 to 3/31/12)**

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

**Activity #5 - Please list the number
of hours per week you spent on this
activity**

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Awards and Honors

Award or honor #1

AP Scholar with Distinction
In School
Sophomore Year 2018,
Junior Year 2019

Award or honor #2

Cross Country Invitational - On this invitational, I represented Woodside High School at an annual invitational named Artichoke Invitational.
Junior Year 2019
For Woodside

Award or honor #3

Scholar-Athlete for Woodside High School - Given to students who maintain a 4.0 or higher GPA while also playing a sport.

Award or honor #4

Essays (2)

Essay #1 - Personal History

Write a personal statement (600 - 1000 words) in which you tell us about yourself. What is important for us to know about you? You may want to write about one or more of the following: your personal history, your goals and dreams, how you cope with challenges, what obstacle(s) you've overcome, what you have learned about yourself, etc.

My focus for years now has been to graduate, graduate, move on, make money. My influence has been the constraints put on my family because of financial restrictions. For as long as I can remember, there has not been a vacation, a family gathering, a meal together where happiness was the focus. The cause was, instead, the focus on money. My family never had enough to go on vacation; I have never left California. All of this is to say that my focus for the future has been to one day bring happiness to my family. My mother and father have supported me throughout my life, and I am grateful to be blessed with two parents who care. For years now, I aimed to become something great for my parents. So they feel proud of what I have become. Coming from a Christian family, I was taught to be humble and loving. My mother comes from traditional Mexican roots and continually tells me to be respectful no matter whom I am talking to. All of these descriptions are parts of my life. My life entails my Christianity, education, goals, and desires.

I dream of a life where I can make money and buy my mom and dad a house to live in, carefree and happy. The goal is fueled by gratefulness and love towards everything I was given. I look around me and see friends of friends who disrespect their parents. Obviously, I don't know their situation but a lesson I am trying to understand is despite what a parent does, they were your way into this world. For that simple fact, I should be grateful.

My Christianity works in tune with my goals and guides my aggression towards focused, loving goals. When I say I want money, I do want it for myself, I am honest, but I also want it because it brings those I love security. I was taught to give tithes in church and offerings because God would bless me through obedience. I was taught that going to church was necessary, and wherever I went, bringing myself to church would be a responsibility that I will hold forever. The weight that each of these responsibilities is great and, despite having no physical impact, is a discipline that I believe in. I believe in Jesus and the stories told in the Bible. By believing in God, I, therefore, restrict myself to certain pleasures such as drinking or smoking and will so in the future.

My education has worked with and against certain beliefs that might be cemented in church or traditional ideology. These topics include sex, marriage, political stance. I had never focused on these topics before high school. I was carefree to the responsibility of being aware. In high school, receiving a higher education comes at a price that one cannot excuse themselves from acting. School educates me about core topics but also current events and history. Being understanding

me about core topics but also current events and history. Being understanding and analytical forces me to form an opinion on topics, whether it is neutral, opposing, or supporting. Not only has school taught me to be insightful and aware but also thoughtful and considerate. In life, most things are not independent. Anywhere there's a job, there is a human relationship. Understanding proper etiquette will be applicable in most places, firstly because of professional responsibility and secondly because of human decency.

My desires are the one outlier in my human characteristics. I want to travel; I want to have fun, make connections, and be myself and happy. My desires coincide with the obstacles I have gone through. I have had insecurities throughout my youth because of my weight, my height, my image. Particular desires include creating self-confidence but also growing muscle. I have not surpassed some of the insecurities that come with being a teenager, such as embarrassment and social pressures. Insecurity is most times what stops me from giving my all to one single thing. I am flawed.

What I learned about myself through my experiences is that I am enduring. I learned this from being a runner, pain exists throughout the whole race, and there will be hills and valleys, but in the end, there is always that feeling of accomplishment. I focus on the struggle and pain occurring in my life towards the end goal of accomplishment. I know I will become someone successful; the only variable is how I'm going to do it. Despite not having as much confidence now as I would want, I know I won't fail because I won't let myself fail. This comes in part from knowing what I want and being able to sacrifice when it comes to desires. I learned that I could be humble, I can be loving, and capable of being responsible and honorable. Most people are. The tricky part of each action is putting effort into everyone despite the citations and variables of life.

Essay #2 - Favorite Lesson

Describe a favorite lesson in one of your classes in high school that taught you something new and sparked your interest in the subject. (one paragraph)

In high school, English was always my most dreadful class. There was no dynamic when it came to classes and most of the AS, advanced English classes all focused on structure. When I decided to take AP English my junior year my perspective changed dramatically. Suddenly the class focused profusely on content and not structure. There was a focus on what I wrote and not how I wrote it. Suddenly English became an outlet for me. I was still an average writer but a barrier had been lifted towards becoming better. I believed I could become better. Confidence has always been a difficult area in my life especially when it comes to English. Analysis of scripture and passages for poems and speeches became something I loved to do. During the class, I happened to write an amazing essay that got a very high score and my confidence immediately shot up after my teacher used my essay as an example. Despite how unordinary it might sound, confidence drove me to become a better writer, and almost immediately I showed a higher level of writing. I became confident in life and that showed itself when I was also confident in my claims on paper. I learned that confidence helps my security and in turn, my work. Not only could I apply this lesson to English class but also life. Being confident in my own ability also causes my ability to become greater. Belief in myself is very important when it comes to the work I do. Had it not been for that one good grade, that one essay, I might have not understood that lesson for a while.

3 Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation

Recommendation - Teacher #1

Teacher's First Name	Mark
Teacher's Last Name	Reibstein
Teacher's Email	mreibstein@seq.org
Teacher's Phone Number	
Subject(s) teacher taught you	AP English
How long has teacher known you (in years)?	2

Recommendation - Teacher #2

Teacher's First Name	Joseph
Teacher's Last Name	Ezrati
Teacher's Email	jezrati@seq.org

Teacher's Phone Number

Subject(s) this teacher taught you AP Biology

How long have you know this teacher (in years)? 1

Recommendation - Employer or Other Adult

Employer's First Name Andrew

Employer's Last Name Obrien

Employer's Email andrew@risecitybayarea.com

Employer's Phone Number

Name of Company or Organization (if you worked for a family, just explain) Rise City Church

How long have you known your employer (in years)? 3

Signature and Media Release

Signature and Media Release

Please read and click any applicable options below:

I certify that all of the information submitted with my application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official of the Pursuit of Excellence, I agree to provide proof of the information I have given. I understand that the inclusion of any false or misleading information, or the exclusion of requested information, will result in the removal of my application from consideration for any award and will necessitate the repayment of any award I receive.

I agree

Permission is hereby given to Pursuit of Excellence to use the information in my application for media purposes, although the privacy of the applicants and families will be respected.

Permission is hereby given to high school, college/university, federal, state or county officials to release to Pursuit of Excellence any information concerning my financial aid, academic and personal circumstances related to my appl...

Please type your FIRST and LAST name in the box provided. THIS IS YOUR SIGNATURE. BY ENTERING YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME, YOU INDICATE AGREEMENT WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STATED ABOVE. YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNLESS YOU ENTER YOUR NAME.

Otoniel Carreon

Date of signature: (mm/dd/yyyy)

02/28/2021
