CARLOS ABARCA

Antioch, CA

📞 (510) 550-6204 ✉ cabarca@ucsb.edu 🌐 Portfolio 🔗 LinkedIn 🤝 Handshake

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara	**Aug. 2023 – Sept. 2025**
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering	*Santa Barbara, CA*
Diablo Valley College	**Aug. 2020 – Jun. 2023**
Pre-Engineering Coursework — Mechanical Engineering Transfer	*Pleasant Hill, CA*

Relevant Coursework

- Mechanical Engineering Design
- Thermosciences I & II
- Fluid Mechanics
- Dynamics & Vibrations
- Mechatronics
- Machine Learning for Engineers
- Vehicle Dynamics
- Manufacturing & GD&T

Experience

True Digital Surgery — Mechanical Engineering Capstone　　　　**Aug. 2024 – Jun. 2025**
Mechanical Engineer, Team Member　　　　*Santa Barbara, CA*

– Collaborated with a 5-member team to resolve thermal issues in a surgical camera by relocating LEDs to the base and routing light through four fiber-optic bundles, improving reliability.
– Authored SOPs for inspection, verification, and thermal testing of PCB/LED assemblies on aluminum heat sinks; validated optical output across white, IR, UV, and fluorescence bands.
– Performed soldering, rework, and troubleshooting of prototype PCBs.
– Designed aluminum light-module housing and optical collimator in SolidWorks.
– Produced machinable GD&T drawings and collaborated with machinists to improve DFM, reduce cost, and integrate off-the-shelf components.
– Led rapid prototyping of 3D-printed FFF models for tolerance checks, transitioning to CNC-machined 6061-T6 aluminum for final integration.
– Conducted coupled SolidWorks–COMSOL FEA and thermal analyses for mass minimization while maintaining a 2× safety factor.
– Presented weekly design updates to sponsors and implemented feedback into iterative improvements.
– Delivered final prototype under budget ($5 K) and on schedule, meeting all performance and manufacturability goals.

Personal Projects

Bike Wheel ABS Prototype | *Arduino, PID Control, Mechanical Design*　　　　**Jul. 2024**

– Designed and prototyped a bicycle anti-lock braking (ABS) system integrating a DC motor, cam-follower brake tensioner, encoder feedback, and IR sensing; implemented Arduino-based PID control to detect rapid deceleration and dynamically modulate brake tension, reducing wheel lock-up.
– Built modular hardware including 3D-printed housings, custom sensor mounts, and dual limit switches for tolerance verification, reliable actuation, and repeatable testing during iterative development.

Omniwheel Cat Toy Robot | *Arduino, HC-SR04, Motor Control*　　　　**Jan. 2026**

– Designed and built a three-wheel omniwheel mobile robot integrating downward-facing laser modules and ultrasonic ranging to detect approaching objects and execute evasive maneuvers in real time.
– Implemented multi-motor PWM control, synchronized driver timing, and power distribution architecture to achieve stable omnidirectional motion and reactive obstacle avoidance.

Technical Skills

CAD/CAE: SolidWorks, COMSOL Multiphysics, Fusion 360
Programming: MATLAB, Python, C/C++, Arduino
Analysis: Finite-Element Analysis (FEA), Thermal/Optical Simulation, Parametric & Generative Design, PID Control
Tools: 3-D Printing, Oscilloscope, Soldering
Languages: English (native), Spanish (native)

Awards & Honors

Salutatorian	**Jun. 2020**
Pittsburg High School (Class Rank #2/820)	*Pittsburg, CA*
Golden State Seal Merit Diploma	**Jun. 2020**
California Dept. of Education	*Sacramento, CA*