

About you

Personal information

First / Given name	Steven
Middle name	C.
Last / Family / Surname	Zhao
When were you born?	April 08, 1998
Where were you born?	Boston, MA United States
Attended California public school	Yes
California State Student ID Number	0142005344

Contact information

Home address (permanent)

Address line 1	1366 Anise Way
City	Upland
State	California
ZIP code	91786
Country	United States

Mailing address

Address line 1	1366 Anise Way
City	Upland
State	California
ZIP code	91786
Country	United States
Primary phone number	4422364346
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	9238
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	Chinese
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 and another language
What was the other language?	Chinese
Married or in a civil union/registered domestic partnership	Yes
Dependent of a U.S. military veteran or service member	No
Your household	
Do you live by yourself?	No
Who lives with you at the above address?	Spouse or partner
What was your total income earned in 2024?	\$ 32051
How many people were supported by this income?	2
Parent information	
Parent	
What is the highest level of education for either parent?	High school graduate
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 made California your permanent home for the past 366 days or more?	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 2025
Level	Junior
Choose campuses	
UC Irvine	
UCLA	
UC Riverside	
UC San Diego	

Choose majors

Campus	Major
UC Irvine	Computer Engineering, B.S. The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
	Alternate major
	Electrical Engineering, B.S. The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
UCLA	Computer Engineering, B.S. Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science
	Electrical Engineering, B.S. Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science
UC Riverside	Computer Engineering, B.S. Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering
	Electrical Engineering, B.S. Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering
UC San Diego	CSE: Computer Engineering, B.S. The Jacobs School of Engineering
	Electrical Engineering, B.S. The Jacobs School of Engineering

UC San Diego college ranking

Rank	College
1	Revelle College
2	Eighth College
3	Earl Warren College
4	Seventh College
5	Eleanor Roosevelt College
6	John Muir College
7	Thurgood Marshall College
8	Sixth College

Academic History

Transfer admission planner

Last high school attended

BONITA HIGH SCHOOL
LA VERNE, CA

School code	051370
Attended	August 2015 - June 2016
Degree, diploma or certificate	High/Secondary School Diploma
Date received or to be received	June 2016
Attended part of high school/secondary school outside U.S.	No

Colleges

Entered 11/25/2025

POMONA
POMONA, CA

College 004082

code:	
Grading system:	A B C D F
Attended:	September 2016 - May 2025
Current or most recent college:	Yes
Term system changed:	Yes
Term system:	Quarter Semester
Term system changed on academic year:	2017-2018
Enrolled terms:	Fall 2016 Winter 2017 Spring 2017 Fall 2023 Spring 2024 Fall 2024 Spring 2025
Degree, diploma or certificate:	No degree
COMUNNITY COLLEGE OF THE AF MONTGOMERY, AL	

College code:	990280
Grading system:	A B C D F
Attended:	November 2017 - June 2020
Current or most recent college:	No
Term system changed:	No
Term system:	Semester
Enrolled terms:	Fall 2017 Summer 2018 Spring 2019 Summer

2020

Degree,
diploma or
certificate:

EMBRY-RIDDLE
AERON U
WORLDWIDE
DAYTONA BCH,
FL

College
code:

005036

Grading
system:

A B C D F

Attended:

April
2020 -
June
2020

Current or
most recent
college:

No

Term
system
changed:

No

Term
system:

Quarter

Enrolled
terms:

Spring
2020

Degree,
diploma or
certificate:

No
degree

MOUNT SAN
ANTONIO
COLLEGE
ALL
LOCATIONS, CA

College
code:

004494

Grading
system:

A B C D
F

Attended:

January
2025 -
February
2025

Current or
most recent
college:

No

Term
system
changed:

No

Term
system:

Semester
with
Winter
Session

Enrolled
terms:

Winter
2025

Has Assoc.
Transfer/UC
Transfer
Pathway
degree

No

Degree,
diploma or
certificate:

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY
GLOBAL
INDIANA, IN

No
degree

College
code:

990293

Grading
system:

A B C D F

Attended:

April
2021 -
March
2022

Current or
most
recent
college:

No

Term
system
changed:

No

Term
system:

Quarter

Enrolled
terms:

Spring
2021
Fall 2021
Winter
2022

Degree,
diploma or
certificate:

No
degree

College courses

Updated 01/25/2025

CAL POLY POMONA
POMONA, CA

College code:

004082

Grading system:

A B C D F

Fall 2016

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
BIO	110	Life Science	3.0	B
KIN	118A	Kinesiology	1.0	A
Mat	114	Analytic Geom and Calculus I	4.0	D+
MU	100	Introduction to Music	4.0	A

Winter 2017

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
ECE	114 L	C for Engineers	1.0	C-
ECE	114	C for Engineers	3.0	C-
HST	202	United states History	4.0	CR
MAT	114	Analytic Geom and Calculus I	4.0	B
PHY	131	General Physics	3.0	C-
PHY	131L	General Physics Laboratory	1.0	C+

Spring 2017

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
ENG	110	First- Year Composition	4.0	B+
MAT	115	Analytic Geom and Calculus II	4.0	D
PSY	201	General Psychology	4.0	C

Fall 2023

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
COM	1100	Public Speaking	3.0	B-
ECE	1320	Discrete Structures	3.0	A
ECE	1101	Electrical Circuit Analysis I	3.0	B+
ECE	1101L	Electrical Circuit Analysis I Lab	1.0	B
MAT	1150	Calculus II	4.0	B-
PLS	2010	Intro to American Government	3.0	A

Spring 2024

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
ECE	2300	Digital Logic Design	3.0	C+
ECE	2300L	Digital Logic Design Lab	1.0	A
ECE	2310	Object-oriented Programming	3.0	A
MAT	2240	Elem lin Alg and Dif Equations	3.0	F
PHY	1510	Newtonian Mechanics	3.0	B-
PHY	1510L	Newtonian Mechanics Laboratory	1.0	B+

Fall 2024

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
CHM	1150	General Chem for Egrs	3.0	A
ECE	3300	Digital Circuit Dsgn Verilog	3.0	A
ECE	3300L	Digital Circuit Dsgn Verilog Lab	1.0	A
MAT	2140	Calculus III	4.0	B-
MAT	2240	Elem Lin Alg and Dif Equations	3.0	B+
PHY	1520L	Intro Lab Elctrmgntm and Crcts	1.0	B-
PHY	1520	Intro to Elctrmgntm and Circts	3.0	A-

Spring 2025

Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
COM	4133	Public Opinion, Propaganda and Mass Media	3.0	IP
ECE	3310	Data Structure and Algorithms	3.0	IP
ECE	2101	Electrical Circuit Analysis II	3.0	IP
ECE	2101L	Electrical Circuit Analysis II laboratory	1.0	IP
ECE	2200	introduction to Microelectronics Circuits	3.0	IP
PHY	2530L	Intro Lab ElcMgt Rad Spec Rel (Laboratory)	1.0	IP
PHY	2530	Introduction to Electromagnetic Radiation and Special Relati	2.0	IP

PURDUE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL INDIANA, IN	College code: Grading system:	990293 A B C D F
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Spring 2021				
Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
AC	114	Accounting I	5.0	A
AC	116	Accounting II	5.0	A
MM	255	Business Math and Stat	5.0	A-

Fall 2021				
Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
MM	207	Statistics	5.0	A-

Winter 2022				
Dept.	Course No.	Course Title	Units	Grade
AC	256	Federal Tax	5.0	B+
MT	217	Finance	5.0	A-

You indicated you were not enrolled in any college courses during these terms. Please explain why.

Spring 2018
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Fall 2018
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Fall 2019
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Fall 2020
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Spring 2022
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Fall 2022
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Spring 2023
I had an enrollment gap because I was serving full-time in the military

Updated 01/25/2025

Yes

Yes

Prior to transfer, you need to complete the 7-course pattern. If these courses are completed with grades of C or better, you will fulfill the transferable college course requirement.

Dept	Course No.	Course Title	Grade	Status
ENGL	1C	Critical Thinking and Writing	IP	In progress
ENG	110	First-Year composition		Completed with a grade of C or better

Dept	Course No.	Course Title	Grade	Status
MAT	1150	Calculus II		Completed with a grade of C or better

Prior to transfer, will you complete four transferable college courses in at least two of the following subject areas: arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and physical and biological sciences? Completed with a grade of C or better

Updated 01/25/2025

No

Electrical Engineering

In the fall of 2017, I had to withdraw from all my classes due to being called into basic training for the military. As a result, I was unable to continue with my coursework for that quarter. Additionally, in the spring of 2024, I encountered an issue that affected my academic performance for MAT2240. On the day of the final exam, I was caught with a traffic ticket on my way to the final exam, resulting in my late arrival on campus, and I didn't have enough time for the final exam. Unfortunately, this resulted in a failing grade for the course.

AP exams

Exam name	Date taken	Score	Planned date
Chinese Language and Culture	05/2016	4	

I have no test score information to report

I have no test score information to report

I have no test score information to report

Activities/Awards

Company or organization name

United States Air Force

Company or organization description

I worked with the 374th Operations Support Squadron at Yokota Air Base in Japan, part of the U.S. Air Force. We supported Pacific airlift operations, handling air traffic, weather, and mission planning to ensure readiness and strategic partnerships i

Job title

Radar, Airfield, Weather system Technician

Job responsibilities

As an RAWS specialist in the U.S. Air Force, I installed, maintained, and repaired radar and weather systems essential for air operations. I ensured radar for navigation and surveillance, maintained airfield lighting and communications, and supported weather monitoring systems. I also handled troubleshooting to ensure reliability, enhance mission

Grade participation and time commitment

After 12th grade for 5 years and 6 months

During school year 60.0 hours per week

During summer 60.0 hours per week

Currently working at this job

No

Start Date: 09/2019

End Date: 06/2023

2. Work experience

Company or organization name

Little Caesars

Company or organization description

I worked at Little Caesars Pizza, a global quick-service restaurant chain known for affordable, hot-and-ready pizzas. With locations worldwide, it focuses on fast, convenient service and quality products.

Job title

Crew member

Job responsibilities

As a Crew Member at Little Caesars Pizza, I handled food preparation, customer service, and cash transactions. I maintained a clean work environment, ensured fast, accurate orders, and supported team members to provide efficient service. My role emphasized teamwork, attention to detail, and customer satisfaction in a fast-paced setting.

Grade participation and time commitment

12th grade

During school year 6.0 hours per week

After 12th grade for 0 year 6 months

During school year 12.0 hours per week

Currently working at this job

No

Start Date: 09/2016

End Date: 03/2017

3. Work experience

Company or organization name

Michael Kors

Company or organization description

Michael Kors is a well-known luxury fashion brand that offers stylish, high-quality products like handbags, clothing, watches, and accessories. The company has a global presence and focuses on blending timeless elegance with modern trends,

Job title

Sales Associate

Job responsibilities

As a Sales Associate at Michael Kors, I assisted customers with product selection, provided styling advice, and handled sales transactions. I maintained product displays, ensured a high level of customer service, and supported store goals by promoting brand loyalty and achieving sales targets in a luxury retail environment.

Grade participation and time commitment

After 12th grade for 0 year 6 months

During school year 15.0 hours per week

Currently working at this job

No

Start Date: 03/2017

End Date: 09/2017

Work earnings

How have you used or will you use your earnings?

I've saved my military earnings to support my education, cover living expenses during my transition to civilian life, and focus on academics without full-time work. My savings also allow me to invest in resources for personal and professional growth.

Scholarships & support programs

Scholarships

None selected.

Support programs

None selected.

Personal Insight

Personal insight questions

Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

My greatest skill is resilience-the ability to adapt, persevere, and grow through challenges. This skill didn't come naturally to me at first but was developed through experiences that tested my limits, reshaped my mindset, and ultimately made me stronger.

When I first attended Cal Poly Pomona at 18, I wasn't prepared for the responsibilities of college. My parents had recently divorced, and the instability in my personal life made it difficult to focus. I lacked direction and the discipline needed to succeed, and my academic performance reflected it. After three quarters, I left school feeling uncertain about my future.

Joining the Air Force became a turning point for me. Military service pushed me out of my comfort zone and demanded that I develop resilience. Whether it was learning how to diagnose and repair radar systems under tight deadlines or leading a team during my deployment in Qatar, I discovered how to stay calm under pressure, adapt to unfamiliar challenges, and remain focused on long-term goals. These experiences taught me that setbacks are opportunities to grow, and every problem has a solution if approached with the right mindset.

When I returned to Cal Poly Pomona after my enlistment, I approached my education with a completely different perspective. Resilience helped me tackle challenging coursework in computer engineering, from mastering complex digital logic systems to collaborating on group projects with tight deadlines. For example, in one upper-division class, I led a team to design a functioning circuit using Verilog. When we hit roadblocks, I encouraged my teammates to step back, reanalyze the problem, and try new approaches until we succeeded.

Resilience has shaped every part of who I am today. It has helped me overcome personal challenges, succeed in high-pressure situations, and refocus on my academic and professional goals. I've learned to face setbacks with determination, adapt to changing circumstances, and keep moving forward. This skill continues to guide me, and I know it will be essential as I take on new challenges in the future.

Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

During my six-month deployment in Qatar as a radar technician in the Air Force, I faced a situation that tested my leadership and technical skills. One of our radar systems, critical to the mission, failed unexpectedly. The longer it remained down, the greater the risk to operations. As the senior technician, I was responsible for leading the team to resolve the issue.

The system failure was not straightforward. After several failed attempts to troubleshoot using diagnostic tools, tensions rose among the team. The frustration was understandable-everyone felt the pressure. I knew I had to step up, not just to find the solution but to keep the team focused. I gathered the group, laid out a systematic approach, and assigned tasks based on each person's familiarity with different parts of the radar system. For instance, I had one technician inspect the transmitter circuitry, while another checked the power distribution to rule out common faults. I also rotated team members on intensive tasks to avoid burnout.

We eventually traced the issue to a malfunctioning internal component within the signal processor. Replacing it required precise work and coordination to disassemble, repair, and reassemble the radar while adhering to safety protocols. By maintaining communication and ensuring everyone understood their role, we restored the system to full operation just in time to meet mission needs.

This experience taught me that leadership is not just about fixing problems-it's about managing the process and the people involved. I learned the value of staying calm under pressure, breaking down complex issues into manageable parts, and ensuring everyone has the support they need. One of my teammates later told me that my approach kept them confident, which reinforced the importance of clear direction and teamwork.

I've carried these lessons into my academic life. Whether working on group projects or tackling challenging assignments, I take a structured, collaborative approach. My experience in Qatar showed me how much can be accomplished with a solid plan and a team that trusts each other.

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

What makes me a strong candidate for the University of California is the growth and maturity I've gained through life experiences that have shaped who I am today. When I first attended college at 18, I wasn't fully prepared for the responsibilities that came with it. My focus was scattered due to personal challenges, including family issues after my parents' divorce, and I struggled to find direction. My academic performance reflected this, and I left feeling uncertain about my future.

Everything changed after I joined the Air Force. Military service gave me a sense of discipline, purpose, and resilience that I didn't have before. I learned how to adapt to high-pressure situations, lead teams, and stay committed to long-term goals. These lessons carried over into my academic life when I returned to Cal Poly Pomona. This time, I approached college with focus and determination, knowing exactly what I wanted to achieve and why. I embraced challenges in advanced coursework, took extra steps to meet transfer requirements, and committed myself fully to my education.

The experiences I've had over the years-balancing technical responsibilities in the military, navigating personal challenges, and rediscovering my academic potential-have given me the maturity to succeed in a demanding program like UC's. Unlike when I was 18, I now understand the value of education and the effort it takes to excel. My growth is reflected not just in my grades but in how I approach challenges and opportunities with a sense of responsibility and a desire to make the most of them.

I believe this maturity and perspective make me a strong candidate for UC. I've developed the resilience to handle setbacks, the discipline to meet high expectations, and the determination to contribute meaningfully to the university community. I'm excited to bring these qualities to UC, where I can continue to grow both academically and personally while pursuing my goals.

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

As a veteran, I've always felt a strong sense of duty to serve and support my community. At Cal Poly Pomona, I've carried that commitment forward by actively

contributing to both my school and the surrounding community, working to make a positive impact on others.

When I first arrived at Cal Poly Pomona, I joined the university's veterans' organization. Transitioning from military service to academic life can be challenging, and I wanted to help other veterans feel welcomed and supported. I became involved in mentorship programs that connect incoming veteran students with those already established on campus, offering guidance on navigating classes, accessing resources, and building community. Seeing veterans gain confidence and feel more connected to campus life has been incredibly rewarding.

Beyond the veterans' organization, I also volunteer with local STEM outreach programs, working with high school students who are interested in engineering and technology. Coming from a background in technical roles in the Air Force, I understand the importance of practical skills and hands-on experience. I help students engage in basic engineering projects, encouraging them to ask questions and explore their interests in STEM. Their excitement and curiosity remind me of my own path into engineering and reinforce my commitment to sharing what I've learned.

I also work to advocate for veterans' resources and raise awareness about the unique experiences and skills veterans bring to the university. By speaking with faculty and participating in campus panels, I hope to bridge understanding between veterans and the wider student body, fostering a more inclusive environment for everyone.

These experiences have allowed me to make a difference within my school and community. I'm grateful to contribute to a supportive, informed, and inclusive environment at Cal Poly Pomona, knowing that I'm helping pave the way for other veterans and students who may follow similar paths.

Additional comments

I'd like to share a bit more context about my academic journey. My first enrollment at Cal Poly Pomona was marked by personal challenges, including my parents' divorce, which impacted my focus and academic performance. After three quarters, I made the decision to leave school to regroup and find direction. Joining the Air Force was a transformative experience, giving me the structure and discipline I needed to grow personally and professionally.

When I returned to Cal Poly Pomona after my military service, I brought a renewed focus and determination to my studies. My transcript reflects this shift, showing consistent academic improvement and a clear commitment to my goals. I've worked hard to align my coursework with the requirements for transferring to a UC program, and I feel confident in the foundation I've built for success in a rigorous academic environment.

Verified information

Academic review
Sign & release

Release authorizations

I authorize the University of California to release application information, including copies of my application, to outside agencies that award scholarships.

I authorize the University of California to release biographical information from my application (including information regarding my ethnicity and sexual orientation) to recognized UC organizations and alumni groups that may wish to contact me before and after admission decisions are made.

I authorize the University of California to release to my school or college counselor/counseling office (or sponsoring agency) information regarding my application, including transcripts and other supporting documents, as they relate to my admission and scholarship status.

I authorize the University of California to release to my parents/legal guardian or spouse information regarding my application, including transcripts and other supporting documents, as they relate to my admission and scholarship status.

Electronic signature and Statement of Integrity

I certify that my application and all information submitted during the admission process — including my academic record, personal statement, awards, activities, and supporting materials — are my own work, factually true and correct, and honestly presented. I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of the application and that the University of California may verify the information.

I further understand that withholding information or giving false information or other misconduct prior to enrollment as described in the UC Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline (<http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710530/PACAO5-100>) may be cause for denial of admission, withdrawal of an admission offer, registration cancellation, expulsion, or revocation of a University of California degree.

Electronic signature provided on: Nov 29, 2024