

# Life Beyond the Redwoods

*Class of 2022: One Year Later*



UC SANTA CRUZ



UC Santa Cruz takes immense pride in the remarkable achievements of our alumni, from those who graduated in our founding days to our most recent graduates. As an illustration of the impact that Banana Slugs make on our world, we are proud to showcase the stories and achievements of UCSC's class of 2022.

### **Career Achievements**

The class of 2022 not only excelled within the confines of our campus but also seamlessly transitioned into the professional world. Navigating the pandemic and the educational challenges it brought, this group has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, proving that their time at UC Santa Cruz prepared them for success in a rapidly evolving global job market.

### **Graduate School Placement**

A significant number of our alumni have chosen to pursue advanced degrees at prestigious institutions worldwide. Their continued pursuit of knowledge and innovation is a testament to the strong educational foundation they received at UC Santa Cruz.

### **Global and Community Impact**

From cutting-edge scientific research, to historical discovery, to social initiatives, the class of 2022 effects positive change in their communities and beyond. Their involvement in local, national, and international initiatives demonstrates their commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

We are confident that our graduates will continue to leave an indelible mark on their communities and the world, and will embody the values and principles instilled in them during their time at UCSC.

We invite you to join us in recognizing the achievements of the class of 2022 and, more broadly, those of UC Santa Cruz.

John D. Pine  
Assistant Vice Chancellor  
Alumni Engagement

Emily White  
Executive Director  
Career Success



“UC Santa Cruz celebrates the accomplishments of our class of 2022 alumni. Their dedication, creativity, and intellectual rigor will continue to shape a world that demands innovative solutions. We are confident that the legacy of these accomplished graduates will inspire future generations of Banana Slugs to reach even greater heights.”

– Cynthia K. Larive, UC Santa Cruz Chancellor

# About the Undergraduate Class of 2022

By the numbers

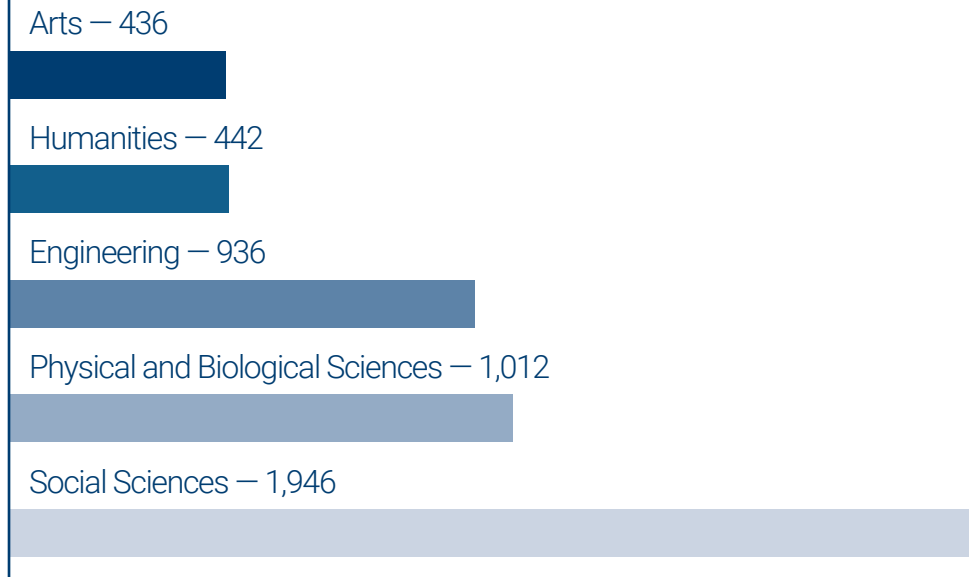
**4,772** students awarded degrees

**81%**  
graduation rate

**1,371**  
transfer students

**413**  
international students

## Degrees Awarded by Academic Division



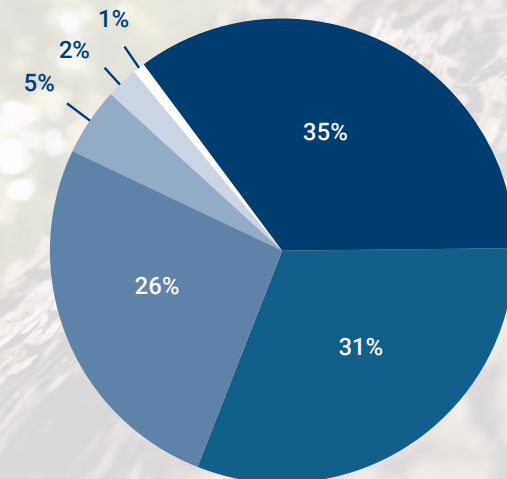
**36%**

were the first in their families to graduate from college

**41%**

came from low-income families

## Race and Ethnicity



35% – Asian American/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
31% – White/Caucasian  
26% – Hispanic/Latino  
5% – Black  
2% – unknown/not specified  
1% – American Indian



“It is with immense pride that I reflect upon the accomplishments of our alumni from the class of 2022. Their contributions and accomplishments inspire us all and exemplify the impact of a UC Santa Cruz education. We eagerly anticipate the continued success of these outstanding individuals as they shape the future and embody the spirit of innovation, inquiry, creativity and service that defines our university.”

– Lori Kletzer, UC Santa Cruz Campus  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

## Seeyade Gizachew *(Stevenson '22)*

B.A. Community Studies, B.A. Psychology

**Seeyade Gizachew** took advantage of every opportunity available to her as an undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz.

She was a Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Program intern with the Student Health Outreach and Promotion Program, a Facilitators for Racial and Ethnic Diversity intern, and a program coordinator with the African American Resource Center. In addition, Gizachew worked as a lending library intern and first-generation mentor for the Equal Opportunity Program, a Black Academy mentor, a Destination Higher Education mentor, and an RA for College Ten.

Now she is a health justice coordinator at RYSE, a youth center in Richmond, California, with a focus on empowering young people through social justice, and is on the path to get her master's in social welfare from UC Berkeley.

"I learned so many things within each of the roles [I had at UCSC], and I think that has really prepared me for a career in working with diverse communities and seeing myself as a social worker and a health educator. I am grateful to UC Santa Cruz for that. I feel like there were a lot of opportunities for me there and I took advantage of them."



**Noah Whitley** (*Stevenson '22*)  
B.A. Environmental Studies and History minor



**Noah Whitley** is now a legislative assistant for a political consulting firm that works closely with the California State Legislature. He performs a variety of tasks at his job, including analyzing bill amendments, keeping track of deadlines and the placement of bills, and informing team members when bills are being heard in political committees.

His favorite part about the job is being present at policy hearings and being able to see the political process firsthand.

"I graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a history minor and feel that, in a way, I am a part of history by participating in this process," says Whitley.

While he was a student at UCSC, Whitley interned at the Arboretum for two quarters and the Stevenson Garden, where he says he developed his understanding of natural resources. He also served as a facilitator in the Facilitators for Racial and Ethnic Diversity organization attached to the African American Resource Center for two years.

"I sincerely thank UCSC for supporting me in learning about myself, providing me with opportunities to develop my understanding of the world, and preparing me for analyzing it within the context of my career."

## Maxwell Ward (Cowell '22)

B.A. History of Art and Visual Culture,  
B.A. Anthropology

**Maxwell Ward** wanted to be an archaeologist since he was six years old. Now, about a year after graduating from UC Santa Cruz, his dreams have come to fruition.

Ward is pursuing a Ph.D. in anthropology with a focus on archaeology from McGill University in Quebec and is an editor at *Collective Research in Anthropology Journal*. Immediately after his graduation from UCSC, Ward traveled to Ecuador to work as a crew chief for the Arqueologico Proyecto Zuleta and Zuleta Field School. There, he documented and analyzed artifacts and trained Ecuadorian undergraduate students in lithic and ceramic analysis. Ward oversaw five students excavating a 3x2m unit.

He says that UC Santa Cruz helped make his dreams possible, especially his internship experience in Washington, D.C., through the UCDC program.

"I interned at the Smithsonian. THE SMITHSONIAN. If I had told the child me I had this experience waiting for me, I would've passed out on the spot," Ward says. "In all seriousness, I mark that experience as the beginning of my career."

"I wanted to be an archaeologist since I was six, but I didn't understand what being an archaeologist meant until my first year at UC Santa Cruz."





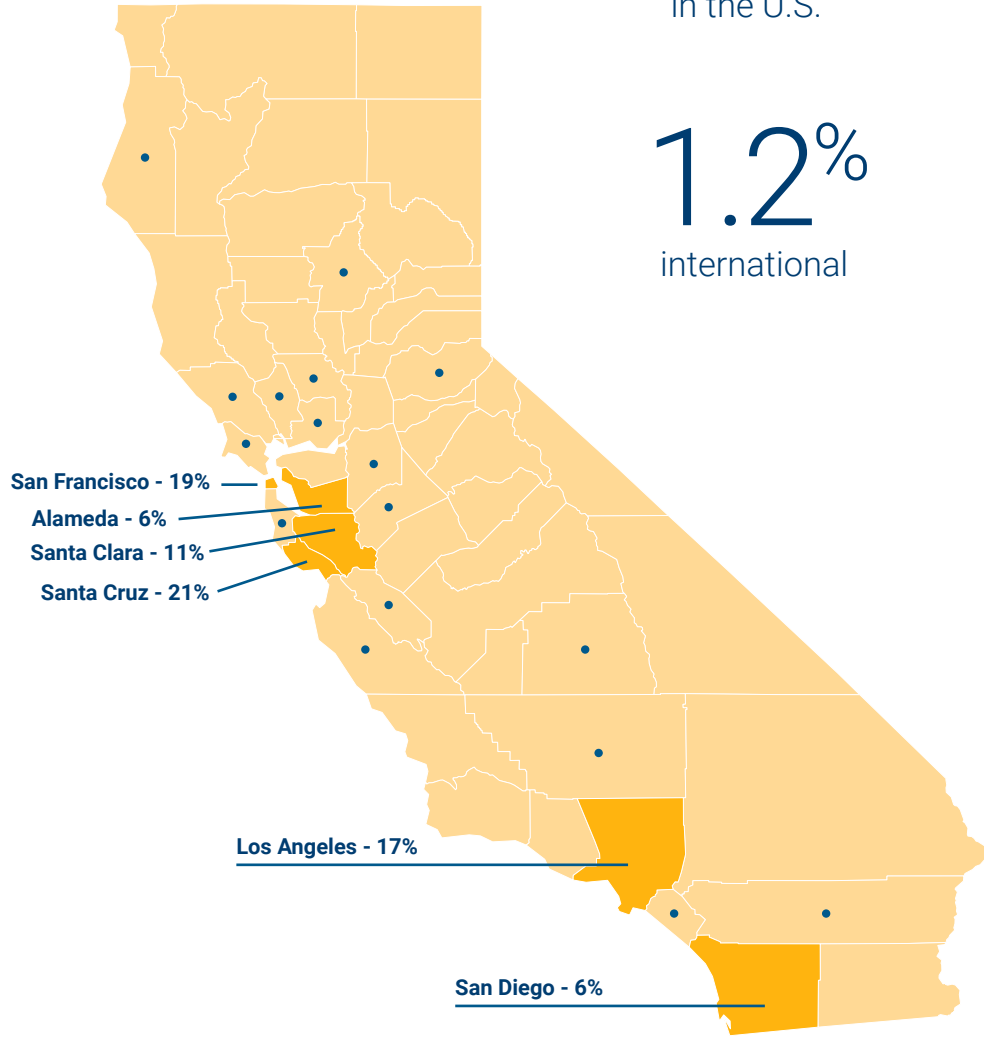
# Where are they now?

Class of 2022

91%  
California

7.8%  
outside of  
California,  
in the U.S.

1.2%  
international



\*by county

## Top Industries

hiring class of 2022 alumni



Higher Education



Hospital and Healthcare



Software Development



Nonprofit/  
Government



IT Services and Consulting



Biotech/  
Biotech Research



## Top Graduate Schools

accepting class of 2022 alumni

- California State University Schools
- Johns Hopkins University
- Stanford University
- University of California Schools
- University of Southern California
- Yale University

## UC Santa Cruz National Rankings

**#2** public university for students focused on making an impact in the world  
*Princeton Review 2023*

**TOP 10** for excellence in undergraduate teaching  
*U.S. News and World Report 2022-23*

**TOP 20** for social mobility  
*U.S. News and World Report 2022-23*

**Teresa Faasolo** (Merrill '22)  
B.S. Computer Engineering



**Teresa Faasolo** grew up in East Palo Alto in a Tongan-Samoan household. Her parents immigrated to the United States in their teens. Her father was a sheet metal worker, while her mother worked as a caretaker for the elderly.

Now, about a year after graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a B.S. in computer engineering, Faasolo is a software quality assurance engineer at Digital Dynamics, Inc., based in Scotts Valley.

One of the first classes she took at UC Santa Cruz—CSE 12, Computer Systems and Assembly Language—changed her outlook on computer programming and engineering.

Throughout her journey at UCSC, Faasolo often faced the challenges of being in a male-dominated field, but she found her community in the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Program on campus, which aims to foster the growth of first-generation engineering students.

“I’m a woman in STEM. I’m POC, too. I had little to no experience in computer programming. But this [UCSC] class was a game changer. It’s where I realized how much I really wanted this.”

## Benny Mosqueira (Porter '22)

B.S. Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology

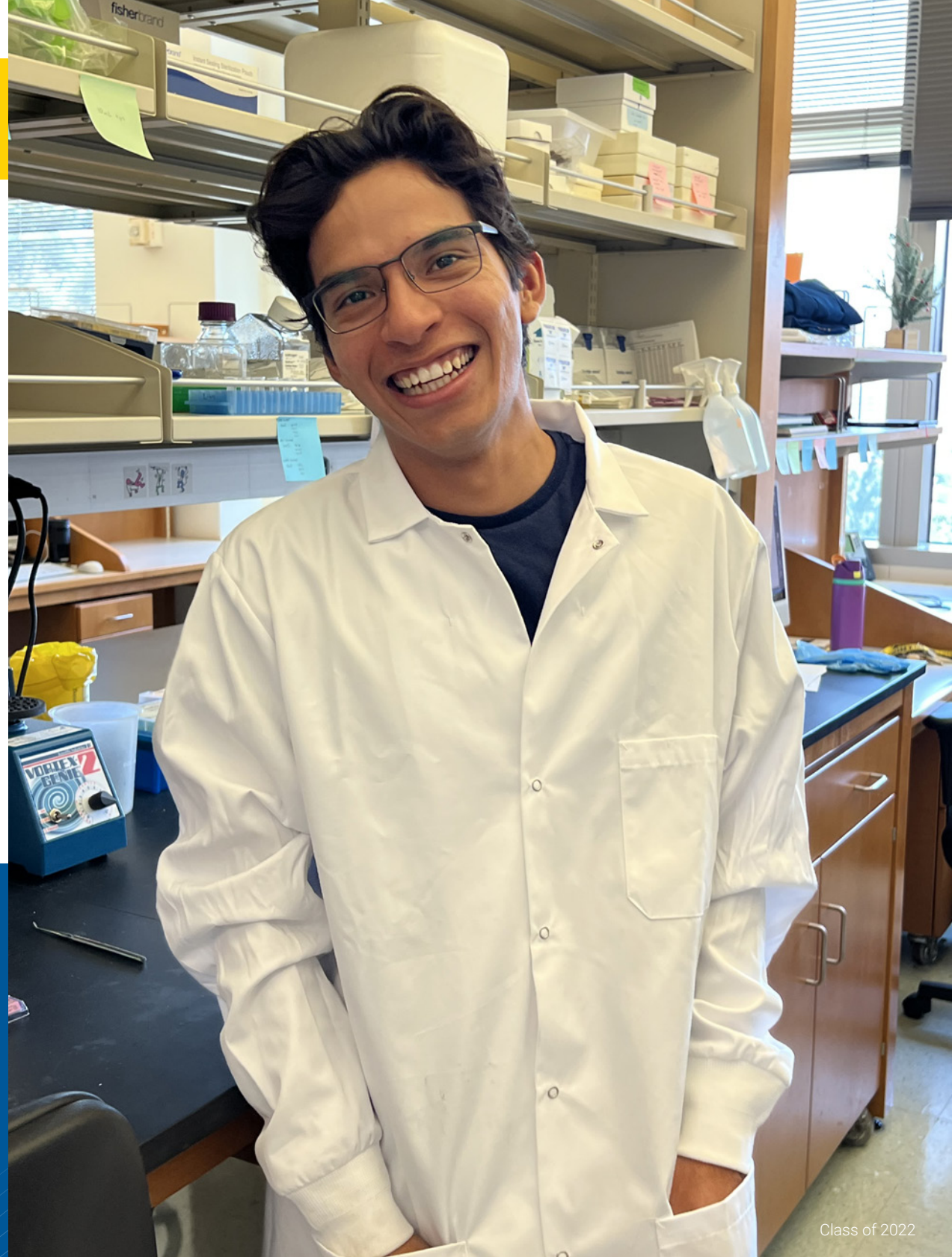
**Benny Mosqueira** remembers his first time entering a biology lab at UC Santa Cruz like it was yesterday.

“It was like walking into Disneyland,” he says. He was mesmerized by the scientific equipment and began envisioning himself wearing the crisp white lab coat.

One of the most notable memories for him at UCSC was seeing his name on a scientific paper published in the *Journal of Immunology*, describing the role of LincRNA-Cox2 in lung injury. The research opportunities Mosqueira had and his involvement in programs at UCSC provided him with the experience and motivation to pursue research after he graduated.

Now Mosqueira is a research assistant for MCD Biology Assistant Professor D’Juan Farmer’s lab at UCLA, where he studies the development of the skull and how disrupting these growth patterns leads to craniofacial defects. He plans to apply to Ph.D. programs in the near future.

“Research in STEM is a white male-dominated field. And the only way that we’re going to shift away from that trend is if people who are minorities come into STEM with high ambitions and really want to transform lab culture. I want to help the next generation.”



The UC Santa Cruz alumni community numbers more than 145,000 now, and their diverse range of achievements, both within academia and beyond, reflects the depth of their impact on the world. As the class of 2022 ventures forth, they carry with them the ethos of UC Santa Cruz, poised to make meaningful contributions and a positive influence in society.

Join us in creating the next chapter of excellence at UC Santa Cruz.

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