

**XIAOHAN GUO TESTIMONY**  
**2017 graduate of Gonzaga Prep, currently enrolled at UCLA**

During my three years in prep, my peers, mentors, and the whole community have given me great impacts to be more mature and thrive, both in academic and in life.

First of all, I am grateful to all my teachers and the opportunities to take rigorous courses in prep. I have not only learned but also learned how to learn. Prep's teachers always gave us large space to explore questions and figure out answers on our own. It was a little painful at first to seek answers with little assistance, but we learned much more than we could ever imagine, such as my improvement in research abilities and group cooperation. The exploration always inspired me to dig deep into my thoughts, which help me to become more self-assured on my real interest. The exploring process also drove me to form my independent perspective. Now I become less follow-the-crowd but more able to perceive things from multifaceted perspectives objectively.

Under the encouragement of my teachers and the help of my peers, I also progressed in time management skills. I used to be very academic focused before I came to prep. I did not realize the importance of extracurricular activities until I joined the cross-country team in the first semester I came to prep. In fact, I found the time I spent on relaxing myself refreshed my mind and body, which increased my learning efficiency. I also participated in the tennis team, Adelpia, and a service club called Voices for Peace and Life, which all helped me gradually learn to study hard and play hard.

Last but not least, the prep community has given me much support and happiness. I always felt involved and respected both in class and during extracurricular activities. Even when I fell behind on something, my embracing peers and teachers would cheer me up and help me out. I enjoyed my unforgettable Search experience, which opened up my heart to others. I started playing tennis from scratch, but my partner and coach who fostered my tennis skills were always there for me. There were moments when warmth and proud surged up within myself during games, matches, plays, concerts, etc. Without the prep community, I would not have been able to become a better self.

In short, I feel so blessed that I was able to study at Gonzaga Prep and build friendships with people I met during these three years. They guided me to improve myself and be grateful to life, and eventually I am able to achieve my goal of becoming a better person.

Schools I was accepted:

UCLA, University of Washington, UIUC (University of Illinois--Urbana-Champaign), UWM (University of Wisconsin--Madison), OSU (Ohio State University), PSU (Penn State University--University Park), Purdue, UCI (Irvine), UCSD (San Diego), UCSB (Santa Barbara), UCD (Davis), NEU (Northeastern University)