

**HIGHER EDUCATION PLAN**

**Reach School**



UCSD is my reach school. It is my main school that I am reaching for because of the prestigious Biology programs that it has and its reputation. It has the majors that I am looking into and are well known in them, making it the main school I would like to attend. UCSD however is very competitive with an average GPA of 3.88 and SAT score of 1882. Applying for one of the schools most competitive majors, biology, scores higher than average are going to be needed to get accepted to this amazing university.

**Realistic School**

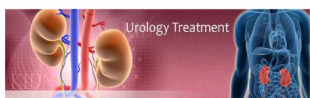


**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

SDSU is my fit school for me based off the locate of the school, it's scores, and its majors and minors. It is in San Diego, a location that I am highly encouraged to go to school in, and is a school that I have been looking at for a while. It has General Biology undergraduate as well as graduate school. They also have a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, also another major I'm considering. It isn't as competitive as UCSD with an average GPA of 3.74 and a SAT score of 1696. I'm confident with my scores and application that I will be able to get accepted into their programs.

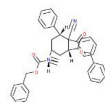
**COLLEGE MAJOR AND MINOR**

**General Biology**



The majors that I want to obtain in college, hover around the same subject, Biology. As of this point, I am going to major in General Biology because of its vastness in direction. Studying this major, I will have the opportunity to pursue a large variety of careers. My main goal for a career right now is to be a physician like an urologist.

**General Chemistry**



The minor that I would pursue is general chemistry. This is because of my interest in molecular biology. If I were to decide to not pursue my Biology major, I will then be able to continue on my interests in chemistry. In chemistry, I would however like to have some part of Biology if I pursue a Chemistry based career. Chemistry can also be an minor that may support my major depending on the path I follow.

**SKILLS AND GROWTH IN COLLEGE**

**Keeping A Steady Hand**

One of the most important skills needed for a surgeon is steady hands. It's greatly stressed with urological surgeons because of all the small precocious cuts that are needed to be made throughout all surgical procedures. This skill can be inherited from clinical studies.

**Keep Calm and Proceed**

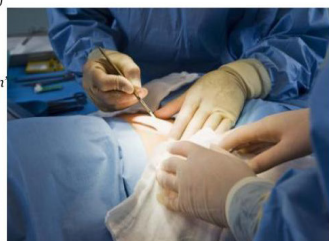
When in a surgical procedure, it is stressed that physicians don't become extensively nervous. This can result in life-threatening mistakes on a patient. This is something that can be achieved through clinical studies however mainly more through experience gained throughout your career.

**Pay Attention in Class, This Info is Needed**

A Urologist's job is emphasized with precise detail. When working with a sick patient, you need consider all the urinary systems functions and areas. Then you need to conclude what part of the system is dysfunctional and is needed to be done to correct the function. This knowledge is gained from the classroom studies as well as clinical.

**Notes Acknowledged From Interview**

Dr. Ghaffary stressed the importance of being determined because the path to Urology is very long. He says to stay focused on your dream.



Vahid Ghaffarnejad, a former graduate of SDSU and UCSD informed me about the different class ratios from the two school. Also the point that after you receive your first job, your school that you attend doesn't really matter anymore, just your work resume.

**MY BROADER IMPACT ON SOCIETY**

When thinking about what I'd like to do for the rest of my life. I first look for different amenities and privileges that the career will offer. First, I have to be able to sustain my family and offer them with anything that they need or desire. This includes materialistic objects and will as time with me. Second, I want to go to work everyday knowing that what I'm doing is worth something. In other words, I crave an occupation that positively affects people's life. A career such as a Urologist. Urology is a well paying field of practice in which I will be able to take care of my family with. It's a career in which on average I will spending at least 40 hours out of the week assisting patients in need of my aid, fulfilling both the necessities desired by me to make a greater impact on society.

In this project students looked at how current neuroscience research contributes to education models and how we learn. Using these findings, students determined pathways to a career that might be best for them as prospective college students. Students used resources such as seminal papers of cognitive science research at UCSD, neuroscience labs developed with the Salk Institute in La Jolla, the "Society for Neuroscience" resource sites, and researcher interviews to determine how brain based education can help them. Students connected this knowledge to college and career resources such as Naviance, and NACAC, along with interviews with college admissions staff, college alumni, and professors to help guide them to a beneficial college experience and rewarding career. The work culminated in a share-out of their plans with a creative piece in front of the student's advisory classes and in transitional junior presentations at the end of the year.

**Teacher Reflection**

The project really benefitted from the help of outside sources such as our college counselor, Tricia Abdullah, and the admissions staff and neuroscience researchers at UCSD. Student work has served a great purpose in reorienting how students go about the college process. A major highlight was students communicating with professors at colleges to understand whether classes they might take would align with their long term goals.

**Student Reflections**

This project made me take a critical look at the pathway of my education and career in a way I hadn't before. Connecting neurology to education in a broad sense was really interesting, and gave more context on complex brain information. —Thomas

I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but I had no reference for the in between steps; I now intend to use the ways my brain learns to properly select a university and major. —Johana

*To learn more about this project and others, visit [www.leaderbiology.weebly.com](http://www.leaderbiology.weebly.com)*