



**FOOTHILL-DE ANZA**  
FOUNDATION

**Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association (FODARA) Scholarship**  
**June 2026 Recipients – 4 @ \$1,250 (2 at each campus)**



**Nhi (De Anza)**

**Major: Business**

**Thank you:**

Dear Donors,

I hope this letter finds you well. First, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity in providing the De Anza–Foothill De Anza Retirees Association Scholarship opportunity for low-income transfer students like me. Without your support, tuition would be a big financial burden for me over the next two years, and I truly appreciate your support throughout this journey. I would also love to introduce myself. Coming from Vietnam four years ago, I am an immigrant and a first-generation college student in my family. I chose De Anza College because, at that time, my family was struggling financially. At De Anza, I have been involved in multiple leadership roles, such as Marketing Intern for De Anza Student Government, Vice Chair of Marketing and Outreach for the Mentors at De Anza Program, and Vice President of Marketing for Phi Beta Lambda (the biggest business club on campus). Proudly, I have earned many achievements through participating in FBLA competitions, such as third place nationally in the Marketing Case Competition and, most recently, third place in the Digital Design Case at the state level. My plan is to transfer to UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and finish my bachelor's degree, then pursue a career in marketing as a marketing coordinator or social media strategist, and eventually open a business of my own. In my own time, I also want to be a YouTube vlogger, documenting my life and sharing my experiences. This scholarship would play a crucial role in my journey because it would alleviate my financial burden and help me have more time to focus on my academics and explore opportunities without having to worry about working multiple jobs to pay for my tuition. I believe that investing in academics will provide the foundation for me to achieve my academic and career goals, and I truly appreciate my donors for helping me on that journey.

My future plans are to finish my bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. During that time, I will apply to consulting and marketing clubs at Berkeley to further develop my skills and grow professionally. Besides that, I also want to look for marketing internships in the Bay Area during the

summer so I can gain real-life experience working in a company. After I earn my degree, I would love to work in the marketing industry, and I hope to get a job as a marketing coordinator, brand manager, or social media strategist.

Once again, I truly appreciate you for giving me this scholarship and assisting me through this big transition. I got rejected from most of the scholarships I applied to, so this is such good news for me, and I cannot wait for my next journey at my dream school, UC Berkeley, and to make my career goals come true.

**Benjamin (De Anza)**

**Major: Business**

**My Story:**

College has always been an important goal for me. Both of my parents earned degrees and encouraged me to follow in a similar path, however during high school, I struggled academically and realized I wasn't on track to go to a four year university where all my friends were going. For awhile, I thought that was the end of the road till I learned about De Anza, and the community college system. I wouldn't have to pay for college for the first two years of my education being a CA student. I had always worried since my parents divorced back before high school and my dad moved away to another state that I would, or my mom would have to carry a debt on her shoulders which I never wanted to happen. Once I graduated from high school, I learned about the DSS program, which allowed me to get the same accommodations that I did in high school, since I was diagnosed with Dyslexia. The whole team over in the DSS department were absolutely amazing guiding me through planning out my courses I needed to take, to helping me talk with my instructors about my accommodations, and to even helping me with aid. However in my first year of classes, I was in a car crash which totaled my car, and caused me to break my right wrist. In one second, I had lost the only way I could get to college, and the only way I could write. I couldn't have been more grateful to my professors who were extremely accommodating allowing me to type instead of write, and sometimes complete assignments at home when I couldn't make it on campus. Their support taught me resilience and reminded me that asking for help is a strength, not a weakness. Growing up, I was always drawn to computers. Many people in my life assumed I would pursue a career in tech, and for a long time, I thought so too. But as I learned more about the pressures and instability of the tech field, I realized it wasn't the right path for me. Over the past year, thanks to my instructors, classmates, and the DASG community, I discovered my true passion: Human Resources. I am a social person who values communication, teamwork, and helping others succeed. HR allows me to combine these strengths with my interest in leadership and supporting people in meaningful ways. After being in for a year, and now my second, it really brought me a sense of community, working with other like minded students, and being in a structured environment that allowed us to make and show change on campus. A scholarship would help relieve the ongoing financial strain on my family and allow me to stay focused on my academic and career

goals. I am proud of my journey, and I am motivated to continue working toward a future defined by resilience, purpose, and growth.

**Angelica (Foothill)**

**Major: Public Health**

**Thank you:**



Dear members of the Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association (FODARA),

I want to start this letter with the biggest thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the 2025 Foothill FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship! I hope you understand how deeply your generosity is appreciated in providing me with a chance to pursue my goals with the help of this scholarship. Growing up I never thought that it would be possible for me to actually pursue a degree at a four-year university and now I'm feeling more inspired and supported than ever. Since it's always just been my mom to support my brother and I, I knew that the least I could do was be the best student I could possibly be in order to relieve her of that stress. I've always held great pride in being able to think creatively in school and supporting not just myself through

difficult work but also my classmates.

Having the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic during the summer between my junior and senior year of high school really helped broaden my global perspective and see the difference in our ways of living. I realized that I truly have the capability to make a difference all around the world not just limited to my community. I was able to actually directly support my community when I was a summer school Link Leader during the summer transitioning into my senior year where I had the chance to help the incoming freshman as a teacher assistant. Doing this work really helped solidify my aspirations to continue supporting my community since I do come from a very culturally inclusive low-income neighborhood.

Now that I know more about career opportunities I specifically aim to conduct research in epidemiology with my degrees of Public Health and Psychology. My focus will be on low-income communities who don't always have the best access to health care, mental health support, organic foods, and an overall increased rate of chronic stress and therefore illness. My goal with this is to hopefully figure out more effective solutions to support families who don't have access to the correct information to stay safe and healthy. There are so many silent killers amongst my neighborhood that many aren't even aware of due to everyday adversities they have to deal with. I don't want to just stop there though. I hope to one day be able to travel to places like the Dominican Republic again or

especially my parents home countries, Nicaragua and El Salvador, in order to figure out the silent causes of increased illness rates and eventually help other researchers figure out promising solutions.

That's just a little bit about what I believe will be possible with the help of this scholarship aiding me in my journey at San Jose State University. Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart for selecting me to receive the 2025 Foothill FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship and helping me see more clearly what is possible if I keep dedicating myself to my goals of one day making a difference in the world. I will definitely be doing my best to make you all proud.

**Aljona (Foothill)**

**Major: Psychology**

**Thank you:**

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,

Thank you so much FODARA for your kindness in helping me fund my education. It is an honor to receive this scholarship and be one of the 2 Foothill students who received it. This scholarship is extremely essential to my next steps, as I've recently enrolled at UCLA, where tuition cost is definitely a worry for me. Receiving this scholarship alleviates a portion of that stress and will allow me to focus on the areas I'm most excited to pursue at UCLA.

To name a few, I am interested in research and will hopefully obtain a research assistant position at UCLA. Not having to worry about a second job in order to pay tuition with the help of this scholarship allows me to pour all my energy into research. Which again is extremely important to me because I wish to achieve my PhD in Clinical Psychology. I will be the first in my family to attend higher education, so there are barriers to being a first-generation, low-income student, but this scholarship gives me a boost to overcome those barriers! Thank you for making education accessible during your career and even in your retirement. I definitely feel the impact of your compassion and am grateful to receive it.