

Hi. My name is Jerica, and Preview Day is one of my favorite weekends of the year to be able to host students and families on our campus.

Now, I am a senior finance major about to launch my life in the Silicon Valley, but four years ago I was a senior in high school from Boise, ID having just been accepted to Santa Clara. I was cramming for AP tests, basking in glory from my last volleyball season, and staying up late practicing flute for the state competition. I was looking for a university that I could continue each of these interests that was out of my Idaho bubble. So I pulled out my Fiske college guide and started earmarking schools.

SCU quickly got my attention with its top-rated business school, medium student body, and outstanding location in the Silicon Valley. Additionally, SCU has a wind symphony open to non-majors, club and intramural volleyball, and a thriving residence life that was essential since I did not know anyone coming to Santa Clara. Lastly, I wanted to choose a school where I would move post-grad and I am convinced that there is no better place than the Silicon Valley to start my career.

One massive part of SCU that was a question mark for me while making my pro con lists, was the Jesuit education. It wasn't until I filled out the Santa Clara supplement and read the vision statement that I really knew what it was all about, but since, this has been the absolute best part of my SCU experience. Part of the Jesuit philosophy is becoming a global citizen.

Like a third of my junior class, I was lucky enough to study abroad in Milan, Italy the fall of my junior year and completely immersed myself in a new culture and language for 3.5 months. Additionally, as part of educating the "whole person" I found two of my favorite classes of art history and business ethics which were two core requirements and I'm looking forward to taking SCU's most popular class, the Theology of Marriage next quarter.

This well rounded education and experience made me a prime candidate to apply for my dream internship. I quickly shifted my love for potatoes to a love for Apples when I applied for the finance internship program at Apple. The career center hosted Apple recruiters for an information session and I participated in a resume critique that got me on their email list. Now, I have accepted a full time position in the rotational finance development program and I couldn't be more thrilled.

With my dream job secured, I have focused my senior year on reflection. In the Fall, I took a course titled Conscientious Capitalism open to juniors and seniors of all majors. The class was a combination of case studies, speakers, and small group discussion, designed around the statement "in order to lead others, you must first learn to lead yourself." I also applied for Senior Leadership Academy which is a program dedicated to the transition from college to post-grad life. This class and program have allowed me to apply my education to solidify my values in order to enter the Silicon Valley, ready to make the world a better place.

Our motto for the ambassador program this year is “be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody.” In my senior year, I am on my way to establishing my somebody and am ready to set out to make the people around me the best ‘somebody’s’ that they can be.

If you come to Preview Day, pretend to put on your backpack, and imagine walking down palm drive to your ethics class. Santa Clara made these last four years the best years of my life. And remember, it’s a great day to be a Bronco!