



# “Destinations” Interview Questions



**Name:** Prachi Bulsara

**Destination:** University of California, Davis

**Career goal:** Child Psychiatrist

**What is your favorite subject/class & why?** My favorite subject would be Calculus because I like how it presents a challenge. It keeps the gears moving in my head and I know I will get a definite answer at the end of a problem. My teacher, Mr. Lok, is great at what he does and he is always there to help students who need it. Many students dislike mathematics, but I actually enjoy it over many other core subjects. The fact that I've had brilliant math teachers dating back to middle school could probably contribute to my liking for the subject.

**Who is your favorite teacher & why?** This question is honestly very difficult, but I would say my favorite teacher would be our Chemistry teacher, Mr. Creech. Mr. Creech is such a genuine person. He is passionate about the subject he teaches, he enjoys helping his students understand the subject matter, and he is always willing to just talk to students. He is funny (especially his cheesy science jokes), up to date with our generation's slang, and gives great advice. I had the honor of having Mr. Creech as my teacher for two out of my four years of high school, as well as being my Science Bowl coach this year. He will definitely be a teacher I will come back to visit after graduation.

**What is your favorite high school memory?** My favorite high school memory would be the time I performed in our Annual Talent Show this year. I did a Bollywood dance and was nervous at how the audience would react. I had the support from my parents and friends, but I was still doubting my abilities. When I started dancing, I could tell people were shocked and my confidence boosted when I heard their applause and cheering throughout my performance. At the end, I had people praising me and some of my peers could not believe that I had such a hidden talent. I also won third place, which isn't too bad.

**Who/what is your biggest influence & why?** My biggest influences would be my cousin, Aashika, and my sister, Pooja. They are two strong female role models I have looked up to ever since I was a little girl. Being the first girls in my family to go to college away from home, I idolize their work ethic and dedication to education. They have inspired me to work hard and pursue my goals despite any obstacles. I am grateful that both my role models are family, because I know I can go to them personally if I have any troubles or just want to talk.

**What is the most important lesson you learned?** The most important lesson that I have learned would be to be yourself and appreciate the little things in life. Being yourself is such a crucial part of growing up because it keeps you grounded to reality and makes you feel

comfortable in your skin. I have experienced the losses of family members throughout the years, so I know how short life can be which is why it is important to be grateful for everything in your life, even the most miniscule aspects. Living by these lessons truly makes life more fulfilling.

**What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?** For incoming freshmen, I would advise them to get as involved in different aspects of high school as much as they can. Through different extracurriculars, you're provided chances to meet new people and create memories is so large. In my freshman year of high school, I was not involved in many activities, but I ended up joining student government my sophomore year and it changed my life. Now as a senior, I know almost everyone in my class and have created so many memories that have made high school fun. Even if it's a small club or only one sport that you do, I guarantee it will open so many doors for you in the future.

**Why did you select your destination?** Choosing UC Davis was actually a really tough decision. I had been accepted by other well-known schools, such as Cal and UCLA, so many thought that I would automatically choose the school with the most prestige; however that thought did not sit well with me. My sister currently attends UC Davis, so I am familiar with the campus and I love the school. I visited the other universities, but realized that neither one was my fit. Overall, UC Davis met all of my expectations of a university. I will get a great education, it is close to home and family, it has a beautiful campus, the town is amazing, and it benefits me financially. I am proud to call myself a future Aggie!

**How did Modesto City Schools prepare you for your future?** Modesto City Schools gave me so many opportunities to make connections with other students and faculty. I was able to take advantage of these opportunities to build a larger network. Modesto City Schools gave me the skills I need to maneuver my way through high school, and to continue using while I'm in college.

**In what extracurricular activities did you participate (clubs/music/chorus/athletics)?** I have been a member of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) since my freshman year and have been the president my junior and senior years. I joined student government, also known as Leadership, my sophomore year, and am currently the Student Body Vice-President. I joined Key Club my sophomore year as well, and have been the Vice-President my junior and senior years. I was a member of the Stanislaus County of Education's Leadership Academy during the 2013-2014 school year. I was the Girls State delegate from my high school this past summer. I was a member of the Science Bowl team and participated in the talent show this year. I am this year's chairperson for Becca's Closet. I am also a tutor at Reach and Teach on campus.

**What is your favorite quote or saying?** "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go." -- *Dr. Seuss*