

What Piner Did for Me

My name is Abbie Hageman. I graduated with Piner's Class of 2009. I am now attending my dream school, UCLA, as a pre-med student, majoring in Biology and minoring in African Studies. College has been the best experience of my life thus far. Every day I am so grateful to go to such an amazing university with such distinguished professors. I also joined the UCLA Greek System as a member of the Chi Omega Sorority. Beyond all of the fun social experiences, the Greek system has provided incredible networking and philanthropic opportunities. Not to mention, Los Angeles is a very exciting place to be a college student. Outings such as going to the Santa Monica beaches, shopping at the Grove, going to movie premiers, studying in chic coffee shops, hiking in Malibu, and eating at the many amazing restaurants and bakeries are just a few of the many reasons I love living in L.A.

None of this would be possible without the foundation that I established at Piner. The phenomenal science department was no doubt a major contributor in motivating me along the pre-med path. The Biotechnology Program was an invaluable experience that helped me to land the unique chance of interning in Memorial Hospital's Cardiac Unit and I was exposed to topics most students don't learn until college. Also, the rigor of the AP courses at Piner truly prepared me for the pace and academic content demanded by my university courses. Collectively, all of the departments at Piner helped mold me into the well-rounded student that colleges are looking for. In fact, it was during a presentation about Somalia in my world history course sophomore year that I realized my curiosity for African Studies and I have pursued it ever since. Even my athletic experience as a volleyball player at Piner has helped me to become the competitive, driven, and perseverant person that I am today.

The opportunities that come from a Piner education are countless. I really enjoy visiting my former teachers and the campus because I am so grateful for the tremendous influence Piner has had on my life. I don't doubt that Piner will have the same effect on many more of its students, helping them to recognize their potential and achieve their most ambitious goals.

-Abbie Hageman