

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Jessie Ward & Katie Falcone

Graduating seniors look back on their college experience by revisiting themselves as freshmen

They were incoming freshmen in 2019, just out of orientation, when we met them. We asked all the questions: why they chose UC Santa Barbara, what they were excited or nervous about as they prepared to start college, what they hoped to achieve in their time here, and what they aspired to take away when they were finished.

Now, four years later, we reconnected with the same students, asking them to rewatch their first-year interviews and, on the eve of their graduation, to reflect on their time on campus and how they've changed since arriving at UCSB. The resulting video project features their reactions, their reflections — and all the feels.

Tags

[Commencement](#)

Media Contact

Shelly Leachman

Editorial Director

(805) 893-2191

sleachman@ucsb.edu

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.