UC Merced Student Leadership Reflections

Student Leadership Positions or Jobs at UC Merced	How is the UCM experience helping you to grow, to develop leadership skills, to connect classroom learning with "real world" situations, and to make good decisions for yourself and the community?	Anything else you'd like to share about your experience as a scholar and leader?
• Civic Engagement Intern • Pilippino American Alliance Vice Executive • Tour Guide	UC Merced has opened the doors of endless possibilities since I was a freshman. Right away I was connected with clubs and organizations along with community involvement. I was able to work with ASUCM and other committees on campus such as the United Way and the Violence Intervention Program. In addition I was an intern for the University of Relations under the Alumni Affairs Coordinator. I was able to seek and part take in another side of our campus that students don't normally see. Through all these positions and leadership opportunities, I was able to build confidence and gain networking skills to further on my education and endless possibilities in the future.	I have always found it easy to talk to both Professors and Staff. They have always helped and guided me along the way throughout my 3 years at UC Merced.
• University Women of Merced Network President • Orientation Leader • USTU 10 Peer Instructor • Violence Prevention Program Peer Educator	UC Merced offers many programs to connect in class learning to real world situations. One program I took part in was the Science and Math Initiative. This program allowed me to learn about teaching strategies and then apply them working in elementary schools classrooms for three hours each week. This allowed me to understand the joys and challenges of teaching and ultimately led me to choose to apply for teacher credentialing programs. I feel that I am a much more confident leader than I was when I started here. Through working on campus I have learned a lot about our campus and local Merced community. I have also learned a lot about myself and how to be successful in class and outside of class. Through the continuous encouragement of both staff and faculty I feel that I have grown tremendously as a leader during my time here at UC Merced.	I was also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to participate in study abroad in Rome, Italy. This experience abroad challenged me and broadened my horizons in a whole new way and allowed me to bring my experience back to share with students at UC Merced.
• Vice President of Administration, Delta Delta Delta • F&S Life Intern for the OSL	When deciding whether or not to attend UCM, the opportunity to be a pioneer and leader drew me in. Three years later, I am proud to say that I made the right decision. Attending UCM has given me the opportunity to get involved on campus and in the community. During my time at UCM, I joined the UCM Cheer Team, established the first women's sorority at the university, held officer positions in different clubs, interned for the local Congressman, and held a part-time job on campus. In addition, I have made great contacts in the community through different community service projects and have watched the university develop a great relationship with Merced and the surrounding communities. As an alumnus, I am excited to give back and ensure that the university continues to succeed so that others are provided with the same amazing undergraduate experience that I have had.	

• Fraternity and Sorority Council President	UCM has given me ample opportunities to really prove myself as a leader, to take charge in situations with clubs, fraternities, and every day school events. This makes me feel like I am developing the confidence to be able to lead in real world situations and also be knowledgeable enough to think about my choices and future repercussions, do what is best for others, and be able to see things through. Overall the University has prepared me very well.	
• President of the Vietnamese Student Association • Intercultural Programs Intern for the Office of Student Life • Peer Mentor for the Peer Mentor Program	UCM has given me many opportunities to further develop my leadership skills and personal development through clubs and organizations, internships and jobs that I am involved with. Each position has taught me different, yet valuable skills that I will carry out for the rest of my life. Being President of VSA, has taught me how to work as a team inclusively and efficiently. Working in the Office of Student Life gives me firsthand experience working with students, and the community in creating various events and workshops. As a peer mentor, I am constantly working with different individuals by helping them get adjusted into college and by working with them through any problems that may arise. All of these extracurricular activities in addition to school work, has helped me with time management, study skills, and overall personal development. One of the reasons I love UC Merced so much, is because of the diversity and unity amongst the the student body as well as the professional staff (professors included). All of these things have added to my UCM experience for the better.	I have found that it is very important to find a balance between school, extracurricular activities, and the social aspect of college life.
• Activity Supervisor Campus Recreation • Historian & Development Trustee • Collegiate Alumni Foundation • Leadership Programs Intern, Office of Student Life • Treasurer, Women's Club Basketball	The UCM experience helps me to grow because of the climate and atmosphere we're in. I am able to develop leadership skills with the many wonderful opportunities this campus has to offer. I am able to make good decisions and enjoy my college experience because of it being such a new campus, that there is still room for foundation and change; thus this means I can learn from my mistakes. UCM allows me to collect many valuable life lessons, and experiences through my jobs, my extracurriculars, and even the events that are held on campus.	Because the campus is still small and slowly growing, I am very grateful for the opportunities that I have come across (financial aid, work study, being employed on campus, small student-to-teacher ratio, and even research). I'm very enthusiastic about the fact that I can lay out the foundation for a Women's basketball team, and in the future when we become D-3, or something big in the NCAA, I will be able to say I helped founded it. Opportunities like this, make this a great campus and make it very easy to be a leader here.