

# 23-24 Lawndale HS Senior Awards Night (SAN) Scholarship Application

This is the application for awards distributed through Lawndale High School. Only those students who complete this application by Tuesday, April 30th, will be considered. Late applications will not be accepted!

Last name (on PowerSchool) \*

Calderon

First name (on PowerSchool) \*

Alexandra

Preferred name to be included on PPT, if awarded

Alexandra Calderon

What city do you live in? \*

Lawndale

Name(s) of parent(s)/guardian(s) \*

Eva Hernandez and Juan Carlos Calderon

Are you a part of a special program at Lawndale High School? \*

Biomedical Careers Academy ▼

Name of your counselor \*

Mr. Swearingen (A-Castellanos) ▼

From what middle school did you graduate? \*

Will Rogers Middle School

List the college(s) to which you applied \*

- Cal State Los Angeles (CSULA)
- Cal State Fullerton (CSUF)
- Cal State Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)
- Cal State Long Beach (CSULB)
- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of California San Diego (UCSD)
- University of California Irvine (UCI)
- University of California Riverside (UCR)
- University of Southern California (USC)
- Pepperdine
- Mount Saint Mary's
- Charles R. Drew

To which college(s) were you accepted? \*

Cal State Los Angeles (CSULA)  
Cal State Fullerton (CSUF)  
Cal State Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)  
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)  
University of California San Diego (UCSD)  
University of California Riverside (UCR)  
Pepperdine  
Mount Saint Mary's  
Charles R. Drew

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Which college/university will you be attending next year? \*

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

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What will be your major? \*

Biochemistry

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What are your future career goals? \*

I want to become a registered nurse or a chemist/scientist

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What are your hobbies? \*

I play softball for school, I am a nail technician and do nails on my friends and others out of joy, and I like working out.

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Tell us a fun fact about yourself: \*

I don't like super quiet places when they are not supposed to be so I always try to get the energy up because it makes me comfortable to see those around me in a good spirit.

Are you a first-generation student (a college-bound student whose parents did not complete a four-year college degree in the US)? \*

Yes

No

Extracurricular Activities

\*\*Example:

Lawndale Girls Volleyball, 2018-2020, Varsity Captain in 2020  
AVID, 2017-2021, member

Activity 1

Lawndale Girls Softball, 2022-2024

Activity 2

Biomedical Careers Academy, 2020-2024

Activity 3

Sports Medicine Apprentice Program, 2020-2024, President for 2 years

Activity 4

Bible Study Club, 2022-2024, Club Member

Activity 5

MEChA, 2024, Club Member

Activity 6

Medical Scholars Club, 2022-2024, Club Member

Activity 7

BCA Government, 2024, Class Representative

Activity 8

Class of 2024 Club, 2024, Club Member

Activity 9

Sim Rated Program, 2024

Activity 10

Certified Nurse Assistant Course, 2024

Other Activities/Work/Volunteering

Please list off-campus activities such as church involvement and work, and/or community service commitments/volunteering.

**\*\*Example:**

Volunteer, Playa Vista Beach, 2019-2020, 10 hours, beach cleanup with my classmates

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 1

Volunteer, Giving Back to Families in Mexico, 2020-2024, 6 hours per week (2 weeks of the year), gathered new and old clothes and shipped them to families in need.

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 2

Activity, Team to Win Summer Mentoring Program, 2020-2023, 8 hours per week (1 week per year), got to learn new skills to better equip me for sports medicine related events

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 3

Work, Nail Technician, 2020-2024, 8 hours per week, I do nails for fun but also get the work experience and benefits while also making people feel happy and beautiful

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 4

Volunteering, Carlos Catering, 2020-2024, 5 hours per week (20 weeks per year), I help and volunteer with a catering business as extra hands to make their trips go by smoother

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 5

Volunteering, Church Events, 2020-2022, 5 hours per week (5 weeks per year), on special holidays my church makes extra plates that we later take and give to homeless we see around the city, I volunteer to pass plates out and get them ready.

### Free Response (respond to four of the eight questions)

Please select four of the eight questions and answer them in as much detail as possible. Express who you are and what matters to you; quality over quantity is important. Note: These are nearly the same as the Personal Insight Questions for the UC Schools.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.

For many years, I have been an integral part of the Sports Medicine Program at Lawndale High School, a program dedicated to assisting athletes in achieving their physical peak and preparing them for the rigors of competition. Since I was in 7th grade, I watched my sister, a former sports medicine student, be a huge help to the athletic trainer and this drew me to the sports medicine field. The anticipation of following in her footsteps fueled my passion to contribute to this program. I participated in the program all four years of High School and served as the President for 2 of those years. I was able to work closely with a football athlete named Jesse Anderson, to help improve his ability to perform physically. When any of the student athletes were injured, I was there to talk them through directives they needed to follow, and how to prevent them from further injuring themselves, especially with Jesse. When he dislocated his shoulder on a Friday night game, he returned the following week with a strict regimen to follow given by the doctor who evaluated his injury. He had to go through rehab and during that time I was there to support him and encourage him, by creating schedules and rehab exercises to complete and checking up on his mental health and academics. Together we faced his conflict and in the season that followed he played phenomenally. This moment of hands-on experience and motivation that we gave each other helped me better understand how much he loved the game and how I could apply that to influence the other athletes. I created signals that were easy for my fellow team members to pick up, evaluated their taping skills, and taught them methods to improve. I organized how and when we would see each athlete to make it easier for everyone involved and I showed my impact through hands-on experience and verbal motivation. I am constantly available for the athletes as well as my fellow peers in the program and continue to show them endless support while guiding them as a leader.

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2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Ever since I was younger, I consistently explored my creative side. Rather than spending my time passively watching television or movies, I preferred to actively engage in activities that triggered my creativity. My childhood was filled with building what my siblings and I called "Mud Pies" which was exactly what it sounds like, clumps of mud formed into one big piece of pie. On a much less messy note, I'd also do things like build my own dollhouse and even go as far as cutting small pictures of food from magazines and grocery papers to use as their food. As I grew older, I found that hobbies related to beauty brought me happiness, but it was during the COVID-19 pandemic that I discovered a passion that ignited my creative spirit: nail art. It allowed me to feel free and be able to express myself and make other people happy. Each time I completed a new set of nails I experienced a surge of fulfillment with the outcome and it made me feel good being able to express myself through my talents and it simultaneously brought joy to others as well. At only 13 years old I was working day and night to get my name out there and now I have so many loyal clients that trust me with their nails and allow me to express myself creatively. I have done many nail sets for special occasions such as Birthdays, Baby showers, Engagement proposals, Sweet 16s, and more. Every set I do makes me feel more and more proud of myself. I can create amazing pieces of art all thanks to the little sense of confidence that grew over me at 13 years old, the same confidence that has allowed me to branch out and take in the role as a leader not only in my business but also in the new hobbies I sparked up, clubs I'm in and the overall role I portray to my peers at school.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

While in my junior year of High School a notable challenge that I found extremely hard to overcome was the divorce of my mother and father. Although they had been divorced for a while, we all still lived together while my mom was finding a place for us to stay. Seeing the changes that were taking place had been overwhelming for me and it took a toll on my academics. Although I managed to maintain a good GPA during this time period, this situation affected my attendance in classes and my motivation to attend club meetings. I knew I had to do well academically, but the motivation to learn and absorb new information was tiresome. All I wanted to do was lay in bed and think of different scenarios to keep my family together forever. I started attending the wellness center on campus at least a couple of times a month. Sometimes, I'd sit and ball my eyes out-other times I'd talk with the school therapist Ms. Lopez. During one of my conversations with Ms. Lopez, she heard me and altered my mindset allowing me to think of how much better I'd feel with a positive outlook on what I was going through. After this long and meaningful talk, I allowed myself just one more day to be a sobbing mess, and the next I was going to get my academic life together, so I did. I started to attend office hours to actually sit and absorb the material being taught to me, I went to each club meeting and participated when being called on and I would never miss school or try to get my way out of it anymore. Regardless of the fact that it was an extremely tough pill for me to swallow it helped me in ways that I would never imagine. I learned that there is always something to look forward to and I should only push forward for not only myself but for my mother and father who continue to create a healthy environment regardless of the circumstance.



Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

An academic subject in which I have gained further interest in is my science-based BioMedical Interventions class. BioMedical Interventions is a class that informs students about the different patients, diseases, events, emergencies, and equipment that are seen in the medical environment. This class has inspired me because of how interesting the material is and it has broadened my understanding on healthcare. I learned things such as the difference between uncertain medications and the different vaccines that are available as well as just overall sickness and diseases that I would have no clue about if it wasn't for this curriculum and class. This subject relates to my ideal future career path in the Nursing/General medical field, leading me to have so much thrill and inspiration for my future. I apply this knowledge in my other classes when talking about different medical-based topics. Due to the fact that I am in BCA all my classes are medical based, especially this one, the information I learned in this class helps to explain to my peers how these interventions work, interventions such as injury prevention, nutritional interventions, medications, vaccines, and more. Outside of the class, I am able to help my family when going to doctor visits by being there during or after to better elaborate on what the doctor or nurse wants to know or get done for them. For example, when my mom went to the doctors they used complex medical jargon when describing different scenarios that she did not comprehend. After the appointment, she told me what was discussed with her doctor and I was able to break it down for her in a way that she could better understand the material all thanks to this class! It truly prepared me to assist my family members in their time of need. Overall, learning about biomedical interventions has been an engaging and rewarding experience. I am eager to learn about the different aspects of the healthcare industry that will draw me much closer to the amazing path waiting for me.

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If you have any special circumstances (e.g., concerns over finances) that the scholarship committee should know of, or anything else that you would like to inform them of, please indicate it in your statement here. This might include parents being out of work, a large family, a brother/sister already in college, large medical bills, and/or being the first in the family to graduate high school/attend college/attend university.

My family and I can really benefit from any financial help because of struggles that each of my parents are going through. Since my parents have separated they both barely have enough for their bills and although they will always push for me to get a higher education I know it is an added stress to us all to think about how we will pay for what FAFSA will not cover. I know that even if I work more than I do it still will not be enough and my parents will fall deeper in their financial struggles during my fall enrollment with no help.

Feel free to include any additional information you believe will embellish your application.

I have worked extremely hard all four years of my High School career and know that all my hard work will pay off. I am blessed to receive any scholarship given to me and know that I am accompanied by other deserving candidates as well. I am thankful for this opportunity and hope my application reaches the committee well.