

情感理智並重 開創人生新局

——我從社區學院轉進 UCLA 之路

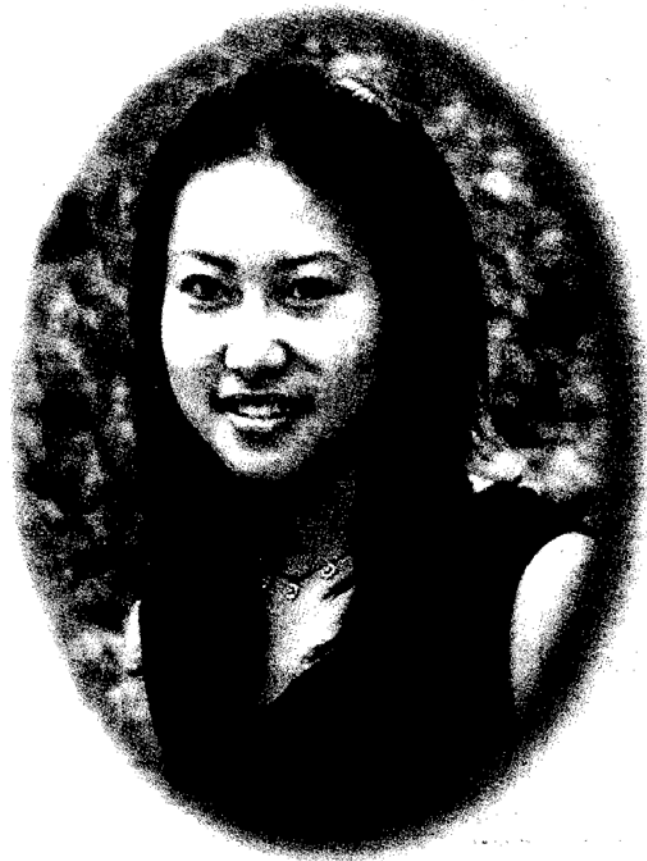
■葉明

一位老師曾經告訴我：「無論你做什麼事、做什麼決定和採取什麼行動的時候，都不要輕舉妄動，你應隨著自己的理智和情感去做，兩者同樣重要。如果缺了情感，單憑理智就容易流於自私的；缺了理智，情感也容易迷失方向。要相信自己，往前而不要往後看，你的人生是你自己創造的。」這些話深深地印在我心中，並支持著我完成了高中學業。

高中畢業後我未能獲准進入我的第一志願洛杉磯加大，在那時候我真的不知何去何從。我的朋友們不是進入柏克萊加大就是洛杉磯加大。我的理智告訴我自己應去另一個已經接受我的學校，因為至少是一個正式的四年制大學，而且我也不致於丟臉。我當時真想放棄一切，又自艾自怨。

在那時，老師的那些話像迴音般在我腦海裡迴盪。我必須做決定。

經歷許多失眠夜晚後，我決定進入我家附近的 De Anza 社區學院，這是個困難的決定。如果我直接去念其他四年制大學，我可以省去之後轉學的麻煩和壓力。我原先並不想去社區學院，我覺得



↑葉明。

很丟臉而且自覺低人一等。

但是我必須考慮自己的未來，我在選擇學校時不能急躁。我知道我父母不會喜歡我的決定，但是我已下定決心，我將來還是要去洛杉磯加大，即使這意味著我必須在家裡多住兩年，並在家與學校間通勤。

主意雖定，我還是覺得孤單無助。

2000 年的秋天，我傷心地看著我的朋友整理行囊、離家求學。那一瞬間，我後悔了，但是決定已經做了，現在已經不能改變什麼，從那一刻起，我只能向前走下去。洛杉磯加大是我的目標，我一定要進去。

在 De Anza 的日子，我了解到許多轉學的資訊，我知道加大系統的學校不看高中成績。如果一個學生在社區學院兩年，或已修得等同兩年的累積學分，加大就不看他的高中成績。但是如果他只念一年就要轉學的話，那他的高中成績就會在申請時被併入考量。

主修科目在入學審核過程中也是重要部分。有些熱門的系就需要較高的 GPA，也比較難進，例如心理系、社會系、資訊系和經濟系就是洛杉磯加大的熱門科系。(學校的科系名單可以在學校的網站上找到。)有些學生認為他們可以採取簡單點

Life Is What You Make of It

Transferring from De Anza Community College to UCLA

Ming Yeh

A wise teacher once told me: "Do not be hasty with what you do, with each decision you make, and for every action you take, follow both your mind and heart, not one over the other. For without the heart, the mind is selfish, without the mind, the heart will stray. Believe in yourself, look forward and not back, your life is what you make of it." With those words deeply embedded in my mind, I graduated high school.

I had not gotten into UCLA which was my first choice but at the same time, I couldn't see myself going anywhere else. All of my friends were going to either Berkeley or UCLA. My mind told me to just go to another school that I had been accepted to; because it would at least be a decent four year university and I could be spared from "losing face." I felt like giving up altogether and felt sorry for myself.

Then the words of my teacher echoed through my head. I had to decide on something.

Finally after many sleepless nights, I decided to enroll at De Anza, a community college near my house. It was a difficult choice. If I went straight to another four year college, I would save a lot of trouble and stress of transferring later on. I didn't want to go to a community college; I was ashamed and felt inferior to my friends. But I had to think about my

future, I couldn't be hasty with choosing schools. I knew my parents would not be happy with my decision, but I made up my mind, I was going to UCLA, even if that meant staying at home and commuting to school for two years.

However, I still felt miserable and alone.

The fall of 2000, I sadly watched all my friends pack their things to leave for college. For a split second I regretted my decision... but the choice was already made, it was too late to change anything, from then on I could only look forward. UCLA was my goal and I was determined to get in.

At De Anza I found out a lot of facts on transferring. I learned that the University of California do not look at high school grades. If a student is at a community college for two years, or takes the equivalent of two years worth of college units, their high school grades are not looked at. If the student wants to transfer in one year at the sophomore level, then their high school grades are taken into consideration in the admissions process.

Majors also play a part in the admissions process. Some majors are known as "impacted" majors, which require a higher G.P.A. and are more competitive to get into. For example, majors like psychology, sociology, computer science and economics are impacted majors at UCLA.

A list of the majors can be found on the school's official website. For this reason, many students feel they can take the easy route and choose "easier" majors to transfer to competitive schools in hopes to switch majors after they have been accepted.

This is not a smart choice because it is very hard to switch into an impacted major especially at the junior level. Many times, the student will need to again complete all the lower division classes for the new major, which means that all the work put in before was wasted.

Private schools however are different. When transfers apply, they are accepted into the whole school. This means that the major has no effect on whether or not the student gets accepted. Private schools also look at high school grades regardless of the years and amount of units taken at a community college and everything is taken into consideration.

Going to a community college was not as easy as it seemed. Each year, only a small percentage of community college students are able to transfer to a four-year college. The majority of the students eventually transfer to state schools. Only a small percent are able to transfer into the UC system and even less are able to get into private universities.

Since the number of students applying each year increases, the two most competitive UCs are Berke-

的方法進入想要的學校，就是先轉進志願學校的冷門科系，等到被學校許可入學後，再想辦法轉系。

私立學校就不一樣了。學生申請轉學成功，就等於被所有的系接受了。也就是說你所選的主修與該校是否收你毫無關連。私立學校也看申請轉學學生的高中成績，不管你已在社區學院修了幾年或拿了多少學分，所有成績都會被併入考量。

在社區學院就讀並不像外表看來那麼簡單，每年只有少數的社區學院學生得以轉進四年制學院，大多數學生是轉進州立大學。得以轉進加大系統學校的學生不多，能進入私立大學的更少。

因為每年申請入學的學生不斷增加，加大系統當中最為熱門的學校是柏克萊加大和洛杉磯加大。這兩所學校也是全國的熱門學校。

洛杉磯加大是我的第一志願，我知道我必須步步為營。我和我學校的顧問每月定期碰面，以確定我是否選對了課。我決定了科系，閱讀有關轉校的材料，並且參加來 De Anza 辦的大學博覽會以獲得正確資訊。

我仔細確認我得到的資料都是正確的，因為連學校的顧問也有可能弄錯，我不想冒險去上無謂的課，那將會拉長我在 De Anza 的時間。我看到許多在社區學院的人，本來抱定轉學的決心，但是卻在一年又一年的等待中失去了決心。

在第一個學期結束後，我決定準備一些其他學校，萬一無法申請到第一志願時還有處可去。但是也因此使得準備工作變得困難，因為不同的學校有不同的主修準備科目。

對於轉學生來說，這些主修準備是非常關鍵的，因為學生在決定日後的主修之前，必須要修過這些準備科目。所以，學生可以基於自己以後想要主修的系，集中選修所需的預備科目。在申請的過程中，學校會看學生是否修過這些準備課程；這些準備科目修得越多，對於申請就越有利。

除了這些預備科目之外，我還必須完成一般科目(GE)的課程。GE課程是學生必修的基礎科目。基礎科目在一和二年級修，高等科目的就在三和四年級修。最好能在三年級前就修完所有的GE課程，那麼三年級和四年級時就能專心去修高等科目了。當學校審核轉學申請時，會看學生的GE課程是否都修完了，修課的多樣性也在考慮之列，最好多修些不同的課，不一定都要集中在數學或藝術的課。學校期待的是多元學習的學生。

在 De Anza 求學時，我除了修課外，只要一有機會我就會去打工、參加校內社團和義務服務工作。這些課外經驗都可以寫在申請表上，對於申請學校很有利。

在 De Anza 求學可以省錢，也讓我多花兩年的時間在家陪伴家人。轉到有聲望的學校雖然依舊重要，但是這件事已不再給我那麼大的壓力，也不再掌控我的生活，因為擔心太多也是沒有用的。我下定決心，如果我兩年內還是無法轉進洛杉磯加大，那麼我就去其他的學校，我會欣然接受的，因為我知道我已盡了力。

一年後，我重新選校並提出申請。我比以前更用功地念書，看到以前的高中同學放假回來，我還是很難過，我更加盼望能夠像他們一樣享受真

正的大學生活，此一信念激勵我不斷努力。

不知不覺中，我在 De Anza 已經上完最後一堂課，並掛心於申請轉學學校的回音。我並沒有申請太多的學校，只有三所，包括我的第一志願洛杉磯加大，戴維斯加大和聖地牙哥加大則是我的後備學校。

我過了很久才接獲洛杉磯加大的消息。那彷彿還是昨天的事。那是 2002 年的 4 月 29 日的早晨，我開車去上班的途中，打電話給我最好的朋友，請他從網路上查詢我的申請狀況。當我在等待時，我的心撲通撲通地跳。之後我聽到我的朋友從電話的另一頭尖叫：「我的天啊！葉明，你申請上了！你申請上了！」我哭了起來，同時大笑。那真是我最快樂的一刻。

那個夏天對我來說真是太好了，因為我不需要再上任何的暑期課程。我的努力終於有了回報。我現在是 UCLA 社會學三年級的學生。雖然這裡的學業是很競爭的，但是我喜歡在這裡的每一刻時光。雖然我錯過了前兩年在 UCLA 的時光，包括宿舍生活，但是我並不後悔之前去念社區學院。我很高興那時並沒有匆促上了另外一個學校。我照着自己我的理智和情感，我終於達到了我的心願。過去的那兩年日子，不僅使我學得不少知識，也使我認識到自己以前並不了解的潛力，那就是渴望成功的動力。

雖然我也失敗過，但是我有機會去改變它，而我也把握了機會。如果我能夠給其他學生建議，那就是我在文首引述老師所說的，情感理智並重，相信自己，開創人生新局。

(莊佩蓉譯)

ley and UCLA. They are also among the most selective schools in the nation.

Since UCLA was my first choice, I knew I had to stay on the right track. I made monthly appointments with my college counselor to make sure I was taking the right classes. I decided on a major, read college catalogs on transferring, and went to the college fair that came to De Anza and got the right information.

I always made sure to confirm the information I got with different sources because even college counselors could make mistakes and I did not want to risk taking unnecessary classes that would prolong my time at De Anza. I had seen far too many people who went to a community college with transferring in mind, but lost hope after being there year after year.

After my first quarter, I decided that I needed to have some back up schools in case I didn't get into my first choice. However, having more than one school was difficult because each school required different major preparation classes.

Major preparation is extremely vital for transferring because these are the classes the student needs to take before they can declare themselves a certain major. That way, upon transferring, the student can take the actual core classes that focus on their major. The school needs to see that the student has completed most if not all of their major prep work. The more complete it is, the more it raises a student's chances for admission.

Aside from the major preparation classes, I had GE courses to complete. GEs are general education courses which are lower division classes that students are required to take. Lower division classes are usu-

ally taken in the freshmen and sophomore year and upper division in the junior and senior year. It is best if GE courses are completed before the junior year because that will leave junior and senior year to take all the required upper division classes.

When schools are reviewing applications, they check to see if GEs are mostly completed and the diversity of classes a student has taken. It is good to take a variety of classes and not just focus on one subject such as math or art. Schools want to see students with interests in many subjects.

At De Anza I did not just take classes, I also worked part time and joined clubs on campus and did volunteer work whenever I got the chance. These are things to put down on the application once the filing period rolls around in November each year.

When students go beyond just taking classes, it puts them on a more competitive level.

Going to De Anza allowed me to save money and spend two extra years at home with my family. I no longer stressed out as much about having to transfer to a prestigious school. It was still important, but it did not dominate my life, because worrying would not get me anywhere. I made up my mind that if in two years I was still not able to make it in, I would go to another school, not bitterly but happily because I would have known that I did my best.

Exactly one year later, I picked out some colleges and applied again. At school I studied harder than ever. Seeing high school friends come home for breaks was still very hard. I wanted to be like them and experience real college life more than ever. In a way, that motivated me to keep going.

Before I knew it, I was taking my last classes at

De Anza. It was spring quarter and I was anxious to hear from the schools I had applied to. I didn't apply to many schools, only three, UCLA was my first choice, and UC Davis and UC San Diego were my backup.

I didn't hear from UCLA until the very end.

I still remember that day as if it were yesterday. It was April 29th of 2002; I was driving to work in the morning and I called my best friend to ask him to check my application status online. My heart was pounding while I waited. Then I heard my friend's screams over the phone.

"OH MY GOD MING!!! You got in, you got in, you got in!!!"

I started crying and laughing all at the same time. It was truly one of my happiest moments.

That summer was one of the best summers I had in a very long time. For once I didn't have to take any summer classes. My hard work finally paid off. I am now a junior at UCLA studying sociology and although the work here is challenging, I love every moment.

It's true that I missed the first two years, including dorm life, but I do not regret going to a community college. I'm glad I didn't make a hasty decision to settle for another school after high school. I followed my head and my heart and I'm finally at a place where I want to be.

These past two years have not only helped me academically, but have also allowed me to discover another part of me that I never knew existed--the drive to succeed. I failed the first time, but I had another chance to change it around and I took that opportunity.