Audrey Bokei Thompson

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Hello, my name is Audrey Bokei Thompson. I am an incoming freshman at Amherst College, and I am planning on double majoring in either psychology / neuroscience and philosophy. I graduated high school in 2024 and in May 2025 completed a gap year studying Chinese in Taiwan on a scholarship offered by the U.S. State Department.

Education

Rancho Bernardo High School (2024) • San Diego, CA
Graduated 2024. Senior weighted GPA of 4.54. School only calculates class rank for valedictorian and salutatorian (I was neither), but my GPA is about the same as that of several past valedictorians. I also received a 1550 on my SAT (99th percentile).
(Link to my RBHS transcripts) (Link to my AP test scores)

California Community Colleges (2024)
After running out of classes I was interested in taking during high school, I took a total of 8 classes online at a number of community colleges from my sophomore - senior years of high school.
(Links to my transcripts: Saddleback + Irvine Valley (7 classes, GPA 4.0), Palomar (1 class, GPA 3.5)

National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) at TKU (2025) • Taipei, Taiwan
Participated twice in a State Department-funded language intensive study abroad program learning Mandarin Chinese. Acceptance rate to the program is ~15% and is full-ride at an award of ~$10,000 (summer) and ~$20,000 (academic year). I graduated with an "A" in both programs and am now fluent (advanced-mid ACTFL scale) in Mandarin Chinese.

Amherst College (2029) • Amherst, MA
Class of 2029, enrolling Fall 2025. Amherst college is often ranked as the best liberal arts college in the U.S. and has a 9% acceptance rate. As a liberal arts institution, it focuses only on undergraduate education with small class sizes and abundant research opportunities.

Extracurriculars & Work Experience

Quizbowl • 09/20 - 06/24 (4 years)
Quizbowl is a competitive, Jeopardy-style team-based trivia competition; during high school, my personal specialty was classic literature and biology. I attended U.S. nationals in Atlanta, GA, played tournaments locally on our school's varsity team, and coached the local middle school team. (13 hrs/wk)

Research Intern with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign • 05/23 - 09/23 (4 months)
I worked with UNC Professor Hao Feng to conduct a research experiment remotely from my home in San Diego analyzing the effects of different wavelengths of light on the growth of various microgreen plants of different pigmentations. The project was used as a preliminary study for future research. (5hr/wk)

Art • 01/15 - present (10 years)
Art has been a hobby of mine for years. In high school, I often volunteered with organizations such as PATH, a local homeless housing program. I have also accumulated over 200,000 views on my artwork over various online platforms. I work primarily in digital art, but also have skills in painting, 3D modeling, video editing, and woodworking. (20 hrs/wk)

National Honors Society / California Scholarship Federation • 10/20 - 06/24 (4 years)
National Honors Society (NHS) and California Scholarship Federation (CSF) are similar high school honors programs that require 3.5+ GPA and community service (16+ hours per semester) in order to maintain membership. (2 hrs/week)

Web Development • 04/22 - present (3 years)
I have self-taught experience with web design and development. My biggest project involved working with the static site generator software Jekyll, where I built a website for a webcomic I used to run called Fractional Fish from scratch. Primary languages used: CSS, HTML

Lead Teacher in Kids' Scratch Programming Class • 01/23 - 03-23 (2 months)
I was in a paid position as the lead teacher in instructing a class of two students ages 6 & 7 the fundamentals of computer programming through Scratch, a simplified programming language designed for kids. This was done with the NPO The Python Club. (6 hrs/wk)

San Diego Hackathon Organizer • 09/22 - 04/23 (7 months)
Sandy Hacks was a 12-hour hackathon event I organized with 2 other people to give students ages 13-18 a space to create programming projects with the guidance of student mentors. I was primarily in charge of building the hackathon's website, graphic design, branding, and day-of logistics.

Awards

AP Scholar with Distinction - 07/23
The AP Scholar with Distinction award is given to students who score a 3 or higher on at least 5 AP exams and have an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams. (I took 12 AP classes total, though I only took 9 exams because my college does not accept AP credit.)

National Merit Scholarship (Commendation) - 09/23
National Merit Commended students are those who score in the top 2% - 3% on the PSAT. I was in the very upper range of this award bracket, being 1 selection index point below the cutoff for National Merit Semifinalist (top 1% from each state).

Stokes Scholarship Finalist - 01/24
I was a finalist with the Stokes scholarship, which *would* have given me a full-ride scholarship to attend college and guaranteed employment for several years after graduation to use my Chinese language skills in foreign signals intelligence. The program acceptance rate is around 5%, but due to technical (security clearance) issues, I wasn't able to enroll. (In the end, I also lost interest because of doubts about going into government.)

College acceptance offers: Amherst College, UCSD, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara