

START

HIGH SCHOOL

**1 TAKE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM) CLASSES**

**2 GET INVOLVED**

- Join or start clubs (robotics)
- Find a mentor/teacher
- Tour colleges

**3 LEARN ABOUT ENGINEERING**

- Talk with teachers and counselors
- Meet an engineer

**4 DECIDE ON A COLLEGE PATH DURING YOUR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS**

- Submit applications
- Apply for scholarships
- Take practice tests

# PATHWAY TO BECOMING A GREENHOUSE GAS PROGRAM ENGINEER

**7 2ND YEAR OF COLLEGE – DECIDE YOUR MAJOR**

- Talk with your advisor(s) and professors

**6 MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR(S)**

- Select classes that work for you
- Don't take ALL hard classes

**5 BE ENGAGED IN COLLEGE**

- Go to class
- Talk with your professors
- Find a study group
- Use free tutoring services

**7a**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS DECIDE WHERE TO TRANSFER**

- Meet with your advisor(s)
- Tour university campuses
- Talk to transfer students
- Make sure you've passed all CSU/UC-required courses

**8 GET INVOLVED**

- Seek out a career mentor
- Participate in internships
- Join LinkedIn
- Attend networking events and career fairs
- Join professional organizations - SHPE

**9 BEFORE GRADUATION**

- Talk to your professors about jobs
- Ask for letters of recommendation and references
- Take the Engineer -In-Training (EIT) Exam
- Talk with professional organization members
- Update your resume and cover letter

**KEEP IN MIND!**  
Don't worry about where you attend college. All engineers get paid well, no matter what school they're from.

**10 GRADUATE WITH A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING**

**Now you're an engineer!**

Congratulations!

## WHY BE A CHEMICAL ENGINEER?

Chemical Engineers design chemical plant equipment and devise processes for manufacturing chemicals and products, such as gasoline, synthetic rubber, plastics, detergents, cement, paper, and pulp, by applying principles and technology of chemistry, physics, and engineering.

**\$98,340**

Average yearly wage of engineers in the US

**\$110,710**

Average yearly wage of oil and gas industry engineers in California.

Follow the pathway to find out what it takes for you to become an engineer.

To learn more, visit [CEICareersInEnergy.com](http://CEICareersInEnergy.com)

CALIFORNIANS FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



**CAREERS IN ENERGY**

# MEET ASTRID

## HER PATHWAY TO BECOMING AN ENGINEER IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY



**NAME:** Astrid Acuna  
**POSITION:** Greenhouse Gas Program Engineer  
**COMPANY:** California Resources Corporation  
**PASSION:** Fitness and Public Relations

"You might not always be motivated, but you will have to learn to be persistent and overcome your challenges."

Graduated from H.B. Plant High School in 2004 and had to wait to enroll in college until 2006, because her immigration papers were still being processed.

Born in Guatemala and came to the U.S. when she was 15 years old.

From a middle class family.  
Attended a bilingual school in Guatemala.  
Before coming to the US, she could read and write in English, but speaking and listening was different challenge.

Switched majors in community college.

A friend (who is now her husband) had just graduated as a chemical engineer from UT Austin. The opportunities and salary of a chemical engineer enticed Astrid to switch majors from Mass Communications to Chemical Engineering.

Earned a Chemical Engineering Degree from the University of South Florida in 2013.

Was an active member of American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and a public relations officer in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).  
First college graduate of her family.

Took an internship as a Chemical Analyst Intern at Oil Test International de Guatemala S.A.

After failing one of the core engineering classes in the spring, Astrid started thinking of taking the class at another school and looked at a refinery in Guatemala to see if they would accept her.  
That experience opened the doors for Fall and Spring internships in Florida with Mosaic LLC.

Has worked at Sage ATC Environmental Consulting L.P as an Environmental Engineer, TJ Cross Engineers, Inc. as a Project/Process Engineer and is now working at California Resources Corporation as a Greenhouse Gas Program Engineer.

As a Greenhouse Gas Program Engineer at CRC, Astrid:

Prepares GHG Reports for the EPA and CARB.  
Works hand-in-hand with most departments of CRC and contractors to reduce carbon emissions to meet regulatory requirements developed to counter the threat of climate change. Innovations within the GHG program drive the sustainability of the business.  
Is a member of CRC WIN-Women's Interest Network.

## WHAT WILL YOUR PATH BE?