

Student Study

Sophia Chen (BS '17)



If senior Sophia Chen had to choose between her studies in electrical engineering and her role as co-captain of the Caltech women's tennis team, she would choose her studies, she says . . . but she'd do so reluctantly.

"I hope I never have to choose. I would still want to be seen as an athlete because it's such a big part of my identity," the 21-year-old Newport Beach native says.

Athletics, she adds, has provided her with the support of fellow scholar-athletes facing the same athletic and academic challenges she's encountered, as well as opportunities to lead others, a strength she had not previously realized she possessed.

When she's not studying or playing tennis, Chen unwinds by watching science-fiction-themed shows like *The Flash* and *Stranger Things*, socializing with peers around Lloyd House, and managing her addiction to boba drinks—for which she makes frequent runs with friends.

She says Caltech allows her to indulge her twin passions in a way that would not have been possible if she had opted to attend a large NCAA Division I school: "I made the right choice. Caltech was definitely a better fit for me."

For full story and a video, go to magazine.caltech.edu/post/student-study-chen