

12-year-old California student ready to start university (Update)

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In this recent but undated frame from video provided by KOVR-TV, Tanishq Abraham, 12, talks about his recent graduation from community college and beginning his university education this fall, in an interview at American River College in Sacramento, Calif. He's been accepted to the University of California, Davis, and UC Santa Cruz. He says he plans on studying biomedical engineering and becoming a doctor and medical researcher by the time he turns 18. (KOVRTV via AP)

A 12-year-old Sacramento student who already has three community

college degrees and has been accepted to two University of California campuses says he plans on studying biomedical engineering and becoming a doctor and medical researcher by the time he turns 18.

Tanishq Abraham has been accepted to UC Davis and received a regents scholarship to UC Santa Cruz, but he has yet to decide which university he'll attend, reported Sacramento television station CBS 13 Sunday (cbsloc.al/1qDdGID).

"I think I'll be 18 when I get my M.D.," he said.

Tanishq started community college at age 7 and last year he received associate's degrees from American River College, a community college in Sacramento, in general science; math and physical science; and foreign language studies.

Professors at the college didn't initially want him in their classes because of his age. But finally a professor agreed to let him attend if his mother, a doctor of veterinary medicine, also took the class. "There were times when I had to explain general relativity and special relativity to my mom," he said.

Biology professor Marlene Martinez said he was never afraid to ask lot of questions. "In lecture he would always pop up with 'so, does that mean ...' or 'what about this?' " Martinez said.

Tanishq, who joined the IQ society Mensa at only 4 years old, has always picked up knowledge quickly, his father, Bijou Abraham, told NBC News (nbcnews.to/1Xqr1um).



In this recent but undated frame from video provided by KOVR-TV, Tanishq Abraham, 12, looks into a microscope in a lab at American River College in Sacramento, Calif., during an interview about his recent graduation from community college and beginning his university education this fall. He's been accepted to the University of California, Davis, and UC Santa Cruz. He says he plans on studying biomedical engineering and becoming a doctor and medical researcher by the time he turns 18.(KOVN-TV via AP)

"We tested him and discovered that he was pretty smart," he said. "We were surprised when we started giving him advanced stuff and he was picking it up really fast."

Tanishq says child geniuses are often seen as odd. "When you think of a genius, you think of a mad scientist kind of thing," he said.

But he pointed out he's just an ordinary kid who likes learning and microscopes but also playing video games. "I just think learning is fun,"

Tanishq said.

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