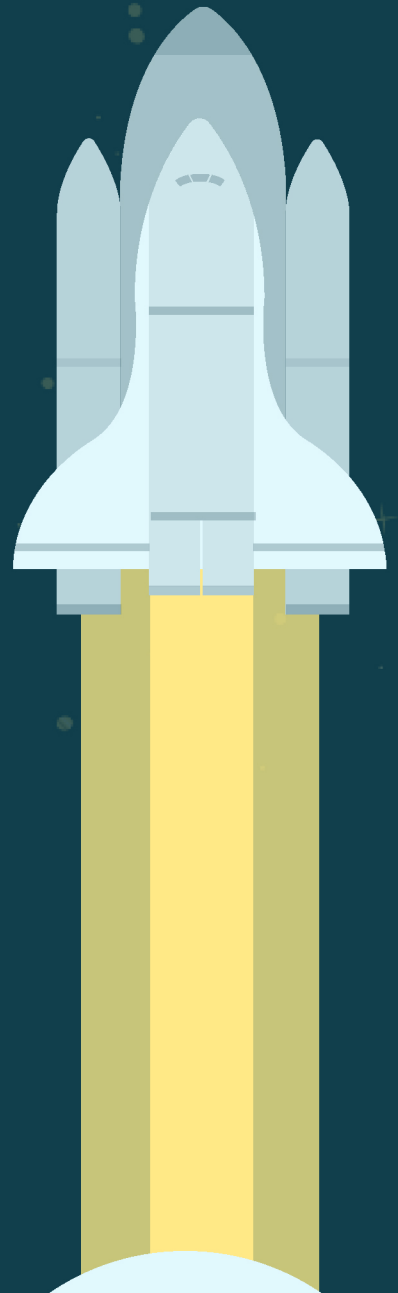


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Masters : Statement of Purpose (SOP) - Psychology

I have chosen Psychology as it resonates with my life philosophy and the values that have been instilled in me since childhood – ‘*help others.*’ A career as a Psychologist gives me the opportunity to help others and relieve them of their pain. I had the opportunity to do that during my work as an Assistant Therapist at the *Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health*, a nationally recognized NGO. My tasks consisted of taking observation, history taking, conducting mental status examination, diagnosis using DSM IV TR criteria, writing reports and participating in group therapies for the patient and follow ups. Through this internship, I stepped into the shoes of my future self – that of a clinical psychologist – and found it the most rewarding!

Academically, I have applied myself over the last three years to understand the discipline of Psychology. I have finished in the top ten percentile of the class in subjects such as Psychology and its Applications, Research Methodology and Statistics, Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology. In addition to my regular course work, I took online certifications as well - Fundamentals of Psychology (Open 2 Study) and Social Psychology Fundamentals (Udemy). I also studied Design Thinking with the intent of applying these learnings in endemic Clinical situations. Through all of these efforts, I tried to build a strong academic base in Psychology.

I quickly realized that I needed to supplement my learning through practical experiences. I did a month-long internship under the Psychiatry department at XXX Medical College and Associated Hospitals. I worked with patients suffering from ADHD, Schizophrenia, Depression, OCD, and others. I learnt the basics of observing patients and taking down notes and mastered skills such as questioning, paraphrasing, summarizing, importance of non-verbal cues and other skills important in the profession. More recently, I worked with XXX and worked with children diagnosed with Learning disorders and Autism Spectrum disorders. This internship gave me the opportunity to use my creativity and use methods such as crossword puzzles, word games, memory games and songs, to help the children learn basic numeracy and language skills. These practical experiences, along with my academic grounding in Applied Psychology, have prepared me for further studies in Psychology.

As I spent time with children and people who were suffering, I understood the stigma and the burden associated with the field of psychology in a collectivist culture such as XXX. In order to resolve the dilemma and problems faced by the caretakers, I did a qualitative research using semi structured interviews and tried to devise ways through which the problem could be resolved. After successfully completing the paper, I went on to present it in an international conference organized by National Association of Psychological Science and later publish it in the International Journal of Psychology.

I would like to pursue MS in Psychology of Mental Health at the XXX as its mission, “to transform lives,” resonates with mine. XXX defines learning as a more innovative and realistic way of gaining knowledge. It presents itself as the top XXX University, supporting its claim with the top ranks in various aspects. It also gives me an opportunity to interact with diverse variety of people under one roof. Not only this, but it is also equipped with various labs and facilities and is world renowned for its research.

During my study at the University, I shall contribute to the class from my unique experiences in an emerging economy and a diverse culture like XXX and my experience as a practitioner. After completing my MSc from XXX, I would like to pursue my Doctorate and research, in Clinical Psychology. I am keen to deal with the issue of stigma associated with mental illness, especially in countries like XXX. I would like to work at devising novel ways in not only treating the diagnosed individual but also helping their caregivers by educating them about the illness.

I consider myself a suitable candidate for the program. I have varied experiences in the field of psychology, mainly focused on the Clinical aspects of psychology. A career in Clinical Psychology shall enable me to use my acquired skills in helping those in need.

Fundamentally, I find the profession extremely rewarding and satisfying. Additionally, I bring in a practitioner perspective from a taboo ridden country like XXX. All of these, along with my strong grounding in Applied Psychology would make me a strong candidate for MSc in Psychology of Mental Health at XXX.

Masters: Statement of Purpose(SOP) - MRes in Legal Philosophy

There is something lasting about defeats. Unlike transient victories, defeats stay with you, in form of unanswered questions and lessons. In my nearly eight years' experience as an independent legal practitioner, I have had my fair share of victories and defeats. Whilst the victories paved way for professional success, defeats became points for deliberation as a legal academician. As a litigator representing private interests, I have observed defeat of individual rights over the inexplicable phenomenon of public interest at close quarters. Two such losses suffered in keenly contested cases, which I have discussed in my thesis proposal, led me towards developing my theory of law and meaning. As I look beyond my professional sphere, across the world I see rights of individuals- citizens, immigrants and refugees alike being stifled in the name of public interest. Hence, I strongly believe that time has come to look beyond existing legal theories to protect and expand the purview of individual rights.

My professional search for meaning coincides with my personal goals as well. Apart from practicing law, I am also a visiting faculty of business law at two of XXX premier business schools- XXX and XXX. Over the years, despite the rigors of legal practice, I have continued to teach regularly, as I have often derived more satisfaction while discussing finer legal nuances in a classroom rather than arguing a legal proposition in a court of law. Notwithstanding the success at the bar, I have found myself becoming increasingly drawn towards a full-time career in legal academia. Going forward, instead of litigating for individual interests, I want to spend the rest of my life making an academic contribution towards protection of individual rights.

Accordingly, I have spent the last year laying the initial research groundwork for my theory of law and meaning research. My efforts in this regard have been rewarded by acceptance of my paper, 'The meaning of law' for publication in the John Marshall Law Review, Chicago.

The pursuit of a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences is my next step towards a full-time career in legal academia. I am aware that in the process, I am forgoing a flourishing legal practice but I am inspired to apply by the invaluable academic experience that I will be gaining in the years to come.

The academic experience that I seek can only be availed in a country and in a university, both of which are open to new people and new ideas. XXX remains one of the last multicultural bastions in an increasingly inward-looking world. The excellent research facilities, autonomy and able guidance offered at the XXX are some of the key reasons that motivate every applicant, including me, to seek admission. But specifically in my case, given to the nature of my research, I can't think of a better place to pursue my Doctorate than a University whose stated purpose is to foster an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish, with vigilant protection for individual human rights.

Masters Program – collaboration between 2 of the top 10 universities. Letter of Motivation.

I want to pursue the joint Masters program by XXX and XXX in Aerospace Engineering. A very hands-on engineer, with deep passion for aerospace engineering, I take pride in my practical approach to engineering problems. My commitment to study at XXX is absolute - so much so that I set aside one year to finance my education. In fact, I wanted to come last year but did not have the requisite funds. Therefore I worked for over a year mining cryptocurrencies and now I am in a position to finance my education and living expenses in XXX.

A small boy's fascination for rockets and jet-engines turned into a deep passion for aerospace engineering after I read 'XXX'. During my engineering from XXX, I moved across the country to ensure that I have access to the best labs and testing facilities. For instance, I did a certified program on live aircraft conducted by XXX. Earlier on, I did quadcopter design at XXX and familiarization program on NIU satellite focused on mechanical systems and avionics design at XXX. I also have hands-on experience of flying a microlight aircraft (STOL CH 701) at XXX. Through all of these experiences, I ensured that I give a very strong practical orientation to my engineering studies.

My practical experiences helped me develop not just a deeper understanding of my subjects but also fanned my passion for aerospace engineering. I am particularly excited about UAVs and their potential to impact other industries, specifically in the logistics space. In my penultimate year of undergraduate studies, I tested UAVs across a range of operating conditions and was able to deploy them in test-situations that could impact our everyday lives. As that project was made, and many of our test flights came crashing down, not only the structural integrity of the vehicle was tested, it also became clear to me that the stepping stone for success is failure. In the process of designing a better UAV, I became a better engineer. Something similar happened in my final year project with the Sounding Rocket. I had to make numerous iterations before the final design was approved. It was a painstaking process, often leading to disbelief but the whole team stayed true to the project and eventually delivered a successful design. These experiences helped me build a problem-solving mindset and become an engineer in the truest sense.

I think this program is a very good fit for my aspirations in aerospace engineering and would help me build my career further. The program is run by eminent faculty from XXX and XXX who have extensive industrial and academic experience and has a very well-structured, project based format. Situated in the global city of Singapore, with ready access to the best labs and connect with alumni and leading companies from all over the world makes it truly unique. I am particularly excited about the internship opportunity that the program offers at XXX and my choice of learning German as a foreign language during my undergraduate studies will be surely beneficial in that. I also look forward to work at XXX's Satellite Research Centre which has already launched seven satellites (including one that was completely built by students) in space. I am sure that this program would help me build a more nuanced understanding of the subject and help me excel in my chosen field of aerospace engineering.

I was sure for quite some time that this is the only program that I had to join. I had the opportunity to apply for this program last year as well but I did not want to burden my family with the additional cost of my Masters' education. So, I decided to arrange the funds myself. I am a futurist and one of technology that I follow is blockchain and its applications in cryptocurrencies. I focused on understanding the entire mining process and started mining the coins myself. Over the last twelve months of mining and trading Bitcoins, I am in a position to take care of my education and living expenses in Singapore.

I can contribute to the class basis my unique experiences as a person and an engineer. Similar to using cryptocurrency-mining to finance my education, I try to stay solution-oriented and use every means available at my disposal to find a workable solution. Also my experience at XXX with practical exposure at laboratories (and real situations) across XXX has helped fashion a very unique style of engineering. I look forward to be a part of the Masters program at XX and XXX in Aerospace Engineering and go on a journey of development.

Masters : Statement of Purpose (SOP)

I am a problem-solver. Over my last two years of professional experience, I have come to realize that the solution to most business problems requires careful application across a range of management and technical aspects. While I could understand and work through the technical aspects of my job, I came to realize that in order to solve more complex problems, I need to understand management concepts and use them in conjunction with my technical expertise. Specifically, in the current context, digital technologies have enabled businesses to grow exponentially. I am uniquely placed to sharpen my problem solving skills further through a course like MIS and go on a journey of learning and development.

I have grown as a professional by solving problems. Recently at XXX, I could work on a state of art 'True Alert' technology and do pioneering work on 4100 ES panels. Notwithstanding the technical aspects, wherein I could check the response of the panel to manual and natural gestures, I could position it as a new business opportunity for our team at XXX. This could potentially be larger than all the existing work at our XXX centre! As a part of the journey, I am getting to train other people and work across cross-functional and multi-location teams from sales, marketing, etc. In order to be successful, I need to work across different cultures and speak the language of business over and above technology. It is turning out to be an exhilarating experience!

I have solved problems across different contexts - technical, people-centric and managerial, blended problems across techno-managerial dimensions and socioeconomic. In my Engineering project for example, I worked on segmentation of Breast Tumor using Ultrasound images. Therein, I worked on research methods and empirical analysis to build a working hypothesis and eventually establish the most optimal method for segmenting tumors. At XXX, on the other hand, instead of working with datasets, I worked with 23 specialists as a Quality Auditor. It was an entirely novel experience as I had to model my responses to individual strengths while keeping the overall process similar. It was wonderful when all the hard work translated into over 30% improvement in overall quality metrics. However, it was my experience of working with the people of XXX, my hometown, to alleviate the stress caused because of severe water shortages that pushed me to my limits of problem-solving. XXX faced severe water problems after the last winter's drought. I worked with a bunch of NGOs and civil society members in addition to the nodal government agencies and mobilized hundreds of volunteers in the crisis management team. Our solutions were not just technical but often involved many stakeholders in completely non-technical solutions. Through all of these I could contribute to the communities that I was associated with and develop as an individual.

My journey was not without hiccups. Within 6 months into my first job, I suffered from Occipital bone fracture and got paralyzed hips downwards. Eventually I had to leave my job. However, I fought the disease out - and after months of recuperation, was able to get back on my two feet. It was a firm rejoinder that through hard work and persistence, anything is possible.

It is clear to me that technical expertise alone is not sufficient for professional progression. I need to master the tools of contemporary management along with my existing technical expertise to solve complex business problems. I am keen to study MIS program at Carnegie Mellon University. Its interdisciplinary nature, requiring aspects of computer science, cognitive science, and communications makes it a compelling choice. As a participant of the MIS program at CMU Heinz College, I hope to be a part of diverse community of students, faculty and alumni. Together, we would strive to broaden our perspective, experiment with various ideas and go on a journey of learning and development.

Eventually, I aim to be a builder of tech-enabled businesses. I look forward to work in roles like Product Management, Growth Manager in tech businesses, etc. I have had extensive grounding in technology through my undergraduate education and my professional experience. Further, anchored by my MIS program, I would consolidate my understanding of technology levers in business context as well. I am sure that it would provide me with the perfect launchpad to grow my career.

In terms of my expectations from the program, I would like to seek a safe environment where I could challenge my beliefs and engage with new concepts, and challenge myself academically. In the end, by being an active contributor and participant I shall enhance my learning and create a wholesome learning environment for myself and my colleagues.

Masters : Statement of Purpose - Engineering Program

I Try Harder

'Trying harder' has been my attitude towards life for the past few years. Even though I couldn't make it to my dream universities, I was thrilled to be accepted into XXX. I came here with a mission - to try harder, make myself better, and iterate on that process even after I begin to achieve the goals and dreams I have always aspired for.

I am proud to state that at the end of six semesters, my cumulative GPA is a perfect 4.0/4.0. Consequently, for every semester, I have been in the Dean's list for academic excellence. I have also achieved citations in two of the most important Computer Science courses : Data Structures and Algorithms. Truly, my undergraduate experience thus far has been nothing but magical, with plenty of knowledge gained, and many great experiences and connections!

My enthusiasm for computer science has urged me to delve into a wonderland beyond the classroom. Hoping to satisfy my curiosity beyond semester long prerequisites, I enrolled myself in many online courses almost every summer, - on NLP, Cryptography, etc. from some of the best institutions. Apart from learning and accumulating knowledge in my personal inbuilt SSD (brain), I was always keen to build something productive. Thus, I started participating in hackathons and was exposed to an unbounded land of projects. Simultaneously, I started developing software independently. Since then I have worked on many side projects. In many cases, I would continue to work on my course-projects long after the semester was over! I have particularly enjoyed developing minor features and reporting existing bugs in several software, especially in versions of macOS (as a member of Beta program). Exploring computer science in such a setting is an ongoing journey that has certainly expanded my thought-process.

One such area, which became the centre-point of my academic and professional activity for the better part of junior year was Natural Language Processing (NLP). I chose NLP, a graduate level course, in my junior year. Not only did I score an A, I also enthusiastically worked on the semester long project to predict an emoji for a given tweet. Driven by my passion for this subject I explored it further and came up with some interesting ideas for projects such as *nutshell*: a utility macOS application that blurs the demarcation between programmers and others by allowing people to execute system tasks using natural language, *t&c-easy*: (which I am hoping to build in the near future) which basically provides a succinct yet exhaustive description of Terms and Conditions in simple language so that people know what they are actually agreeing to. The concept of making machines understand human language excites me and I am convinced that I definitely want to be a part of this subset of Computer Science and build a career in it, trying to solve some interesting real world problems and making advancements in the field.

Not content with academic excellence alone, I explored various internships to learn in a more applied setting. While I worked at EY on massive projects, I learnt the most at XXX - a

software services start-up with just 30 employees. At XXX, I developed an analytical tool that helped the company see the reach of their product by extracting useful information from their log files and provide them with a visual representation for the same. In the words of my manager, "I gave the company its eyes, that helped them see how their product was being received." This is what I strive for in life, solving problems and making an impact!

I have worked extremely hard the past few years to build myself to apply to my dream university. I want to pursue Masters in NLP - a subject that I love and one which I have assiduously nurtured. I have studied under Professor Brendan O'Connor, a Stanford graduate himself and it turned out to be a very powerful learning experience. Some of the research being done at Stanford excites me, particularly Prof. Dan Jurafsky's work in applying NLP to social and behavioral sciences. It would certainly be a dream come true to work with the person whose book was a required reading in my NLP course. Immersion at Stanford would be a pit stop that would allow me to learn and develop a more nuanced understanding of the discipline, and continue to recurse on my life's goal - trying harder and go on to make significant impact in the field.

I certainly have come a long way from the uncertain eighteen year old who, four years ago, took the first tentative steps to understand Computer Science. While I could not get into Stanford four years back, I have worked hard and I am better prepared now. Over the last few years, I have worked on many challenging problems, discovering what I like and in the process building a better me. I am thrilled with the possibility of being a part of the extremely driven and passionate problem solvers at Stanford and look forward to go on an even more exhilarating journey.