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# College Personal Statement

In middle school, I had the opportunity to take part in an advanced, hands-on seminar for talented kids. In PACT, as it was called, we did not just listen to lectures; instead, we worked in groups to solve situational problems. In this class, we learned to be resourceful in tackling unpredictable scenarios; I enjoyed collaborating in groups and serving as team leader. For one unit, we were given pH samples of water from a nearby contaminated river. We had to figure out the cause of the contamination and recommend a way to fix it. The idea that my work could solve a real problem, even hypothetical, was exhilarating; I knew this was what I wanted in a career. This newfound perspective led me to the field of engineering, which prepares students to become excellent leaders, thinkers, and problem solvers. I am confident that the engineering program at the University of Pennsylvania would be the ideal preparation for my future success.

While I have taken many foundational classes that will prepare me for an undergraduate engineering program, such as AP Physics and AP Calculus, I have developed a particular passion for Statistics and Finance. I hope to progress into a career where I can apply an engineering background to these interests, and this is why the University of Pennsylvania stands out to me. UPenn excels not just in engineering, but in all areas of study. This is exemplified by the prestigious Wharton School, widely considered to be the best business school in the world. In addition, I hope to enhance my education by contributing to research projects, and UPenn has outstanding research resources. Programs such as the Rachleff Scholars Program and the Littlejohn Undergraduate Research Program offer invaluable opportunities that are unmatched by other universities.

On my first campus tour, I saw clearly how UPenn stood out from other prestigious engineering schools, which might also offer ways to learn essential business skills while maintaining focus on engineering. On just about every other engineering tour I had taken, tour guides focused on the flashy stuff, such as their hugely expensive lab equipment – but this shifted focus away from what is truly important to me: the culture of engineering students. I wanted my classmates to be creative, outside-the-box thinkers who will strive to make a difference. On my several visits to UPenn, I have spoken with a number of students, whom I have found to be versatile and interesting people with access to a wide range of growth opportunities, not restricted just to classroom learning. They are able to manage their studies and extracurricular activities while greatly enjoying their experiences. My tour guide and these other students spoke to how their studies will truly apply to real-world challenges. My firsthand experience with such passionate students made it clear the UPenn is unlike any other school.

In sum, the University of Pennsylvania is the perfect fit for me to pursue my education, as it offers the best engineering and business programs, extensive research opportunities, and impressive students who are pursuing ambitions in line with my own. I look forward to the opportunity to join the UPenn community.

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