

Curriculum Vitae of Failures

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August 6, 2025

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Purpose

Inspired by Johannes Haushofer's CV of Failures, this document records the academic, professional, and personal setbacks that have shaped my journey. The goal is to highlight that behind every success lies a trail of unseen rejections and missed opportunities.

Degree Programs I Did Not Get Into

- PhD positions, CMU, UMass Amherst, GaTech, Columbia, Princeton, UVA (2025)
- MS positons, UMass Amherst, Gatech, UCSD (2022, 2023)

Grants and Fellowships I Did Not Receive

- Amazon Trusted AI Challenge award (2025)
- EMNLP Volunteer grant (2023)
- LREC-COLING volunteer grant (2024)

Papers Rejected

- Vector controlled ethical reasoning with language models - Rejected from BlackBoxNLP (2024), project subsequently trashed.
- NormAd – Withdrawn from COLM, subsequently rejected from EMNLP (2024).
- Ethical reasoning – Rejected from ACL (2023).
- Jailbreak paradox – Rejected from EMNLP (2024).
- Less is Fed More - Rejected from ACL (2024).

- Multilingual Punctuation Restoration for speech transcripts - Rejected from INTERSPEECH (2022).

Other Failures

- 199 internship applications rejected out of 200+ applied (2024)
- TikTok full-time job offer rejection after 4 rounds of interview (2024).
- MATS Summer School rejection (2025).
- MSR-India rejection (2022) before getting accepted into a different team.

Reflection

While none of these failures made it onto my standard CV, each one contributed to personal growth, resilience, and redirected focus. This document serves to remind myself—and others—that setbacks are part of every meaningful career.