

Benjamin Haws

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MSBA Application Personal Statement

Summer 2024 | Cornell University

March 22, 2024

Prompt

Please describe (within 300-500 words) how your background and experiences influenced your decision and ability to pursue a graduate degree. Additionally, provide insights into your potential to contribute to a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect where scholars representing diverse backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn and work productively and positively together."

Journey of Learning, Leadership, and Inclusion: My Path to Graduate Studies

My educational journey has been anything but linear, filled with twists and turns that have ultimately led me to a profound understanding: learning is a lifelong pursuit. Each experience along this path has shaped my decision to pursue a graduate degree and has equipped me with the tools to contribute meaningfully to a community rooted in inclusion, belonging, and respect.

As the 3rd Vice President of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Auxiliary (RWJUH), I have dedicated myself to healthcare philanthropy for over three years. In this role, I've spearheaded fundraising initiatives to address the needs of our hospital and community. The Auxiliary's mission aligns closely with my values, emphasizing the importance of giving back and making a tangible impact on the lives of others.

My commitment to the community extends beyond philanthropy. I've actively supported women in leadership roles, recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives and experiences in shaping a vibrant and inclusive environment. The endorsement from the President of the RWJUH Auxiliary speaks volumes about my dedication to fostering an inclusive community where all voices are heard and valued.

Moreover, my experiences in diverse settings have reinforced the significance of belonging and respect. A former colleague of Indian descent highlighted my ability to navigate and contribute positively to group dynamics, regardless of cultural backgrounds. This underscores my belief in the power of respect and understanding to bridge divides and foster a sense of belonging for all.

In my pursuit of personal and professional growth, I am currently enrolled in the IBM Data Analyst Professional certification on Coursera (completing 6 of 9 classes on 3/30/2024). This endeavor reflects my commitment to continuous learning and readiness to embrace new challenges. It also serves as preparation for the Master of Science in Business Analytics program, should I have the privilege of joining.

Overall, my journey has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the value of education, community, and diversity. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to a graduate community where individuals from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences come together to learn, collaborate, and thrive. With humility and determination, I am ready to embark on this next chapter of my academic and personal growth.