**In 500-1000 words, write an essay addressing ALL the following topics:**

* Why do you want to major in BYU Marriott Information Systems?
* What should we know about you that goes beyond your grades, including any grade irregularities in your academic record?
* Please review the BYU Marriott vision, mission, and values at <https://marriott.byu.edu/our-story/mission/>. After reviewing the BYU Marriott vision, mission, and values, share an example of how you have exemplified one of these values in your leadership or service to others. How can you incorporate the BYU Marriott vision, mission, and values into your experience within the Information Systems Junior Core?

During my first three years of high school, I experienced the intense and consuming effects of academic and extracurricular activities. Then, everything slowed down with the COVID-19 pandemic. While doors of opportunity were closing for some, my senior year of high school became a time of reflection and exploration, revealing my fascination with information systems.

Due to the online learning environment of the 2020-2021 school year, I decided to take online college courses to explore what I wanted to study in college. Among these classes, I found I enjoyed my Java, finance, and Excel courses. After completing these courses, I started thinking about studying something involving computers. I debated computer science but was unsure if it was the correct major for me.

One day, I called my older sister to express my concerns, and she told me that if I did not want to study computer science, I should explore information systems. Having never heard of the major, my interest was sparked. When looking at the Marriott School’s requirements for information systems, I saw they included programming and business classes. From the Java, finance, and Excel classes I had taken, I knew that information systems would be the perfect blend of all the classes I enjoyed.

After coming to that conclusion, I took a break from school to serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints assigned to the Mexico Merida Mission. During the first 21 months of my mission, I did not meet anyone who had studied information systems or a related field. In my last area, however, I met multiple people who worked virtually for U.S. tech companies. I remember especially looking up to one member who told us stories about his travels worldwide to improve international banking systems through technology. As I listened to his stories about improving foreign systems, I started to think of all the ways I could use an information systems degree to do the same.

After praying one Monday, I called home to tell my mother I was going to study information systems, but before I had the chance, she started talking about a new technology I had not heard of called 'Chat GPT' that would revolutionize the world. Hearing about this only increased my excitement to study information systems. Since then, I have enjoyed learning about how large language models work and the doors of opportunity being opened by this technology.

As a student in the information systems program, I will strive to magnify the Marriott School’svision, mission, and values. One value I have developed has been respect for all. Upon returning from my mission last summer, I was able to exemplify this value through my interactions working for a lawn care company. In the business, we worked in two-man crews, and because the company did not have enough people with driver's licenses to drive the trucks, I was assigned as one of the drivers. Every individual I worked with did not have a driver's license due to homelessness, criminal records, or drugs. Working with them, I gave them rides home, shared food with them, invited them to church, and became their friend. Because I respected these men without judgment, they, in return, respected my values. Without even asking, most of the individuals I worked with told me they would stop swearing and smoking when around me because they wanted to show respect for my values. This experience reaffirmed to me an important lesson: if we want others to respect us, we must first respect them.

These last few weeks, I have further practiced respect for all as I have worked for the Alaskan Native Science and Engineering Program. Working with Alaska native high schoolers from rural villages across the state, I have helped them learn more about STEM degrees and programs. In return, they have taught me about their culture and background. From these experiences, I have developed a greater sense of respect and cultural awareness for those of different backgrounds.

Looking to the future, I would like to apply what I have learned from respecting different cultures to information systems. Technology is an instrument that can vastly improve the lives of others, and one of my dreams is to use what I learn in the information systems program to improve the lives of disadvantaged people of different cultural backgrounds. Some ways I have thought about making this dream a realization have been through educating others about technological opportunities and creating software to improve local systems.

In the Information Systems Junior Core, I will further incorporate the BYU Marriott School’s vision, mission, and values into my experience as I focus on character-building experiences in addition to technical skills. For example, rather than complete large projects independently, I can work with my team and ensure each member understands the project and that we learn together. I will also put God first by studying the scriptures before anything else to develop greater faith. This focus on God will help me look for ways to use what I am learning to bless other people rather than focus on what will benefit me the most. As I put the things of most importance first, my integrity will not be compromised by the world's temptations. When I enter the Tanner Building each day for class, I will let the words of Elder Tanner resonate within me, acknowledging, "There is strength in humility and weakness in pride."

A respected mentor of mine once said that my chosen major should be something I enjoy, am good at, and can use to make the world a better place. After reviewing different majors, I have found that information systems completes these objectives more than any other. In pursuing information systems, I plan to excel in my passions and talents while maintaining excitement about contributing to the Marriott School’s vision, mission, and values. In doing so, I will gain invaluable experience that will enable me to change the world for the better.