

Personal Statement – Devyn Allen

This personal statement should have been written and submitted to you, *The Honors Program*, around this time two years ago. Unfortunately, I was nowhere near as enthusiastic about education as I am today. However, I am a true believer in everything happening for a reason. God is in control.

Middle school is where it all began. In Texas, or at least in Round Rock, Texas, taking Spanish courses in middle school was a requirement. At the time, I was upset because that just meant more homework and less time for video games, particularly *Runescape*. Little did I know, that requirement was a blessing in disguise.

Being the inquisitive kid that I was, I often wondered how games such as *Runescape* worked. A few days of research led me to download a copy of the game's source and client files, and with it, my own version of *Runescape*—Convivial. I explored and edited lines upon lines of code to ensure that Convivial differed drastically from *Runescape*. I did not realize that I was teaching myself Java in the process, but this is how I was introduced to and fell in love with computer science. I accidentally taught myself how to code, and that has benefited me greatly throughout high school and now at Prairie View.

When it came time to pick a college, Prairie View was second to last on my list. I did not know of its existence until my senior year, nor did I ever bother to visit. Some family members and most peers were appalled when I chose to attend, and they had every right to be. The stigma that surrounded Prairie View was pronounced, but it was the only school that believed in me (and offered to help financially), so I reciprocated that same belief in it. Prairie View gave me a chance when no else would, which is why I am so motivated to redefining the stereotypes associated with it today. No matter where I go or what I do, I make it known that I am a product of Prairie View A&M University.

My first day on campus was my first day of the CE2I summer program—a program for incoming engineering majors. In said program, I earned a 4.0 GPA along with the “*The Most Outstanding Introduction to Engineering*” award. I also contacted the *Department of Languages and Communication* in order to take a Spanish Placement Exam. I tested out of Elementary Spanish I and II, but my AP credits were sufficient to do so already. Furthermore, during the program, I began a project called *Biz On The Hill*; a student service directory with the hopes of promoting entrepreneurship on campus.

Entering freshman year with a 4.0 GPA provided me with just the confidence I needed. I was genuinely convinced that anything was possible if I set my mind to it, so I sought the impossible. As a freshman, I impressed Lockheed Martin enough to offer me my very first Software Engineering internship at their Sunnyvale, California location. I was also accepted into Google's Tech Exchange program, a program meant for rising juniors. Keeping on with this mindset, I applied to and was accepted into the second cohort of Intel HBCU Scholars at Prairie View. Now in my Sophomore year, I have been accepted into the highly competitive Apple HBCU Scholars program, as well as the HBCUSXSW19 Cohort.

With all of my computer science related accomplishments, one could assume that I wanted to be an engineer, but what I really want to be is an entrepreneur and philanthropist; building, investing and giving back to the world. In order to do so though, I must first understand where we have been before making decisions on where we are to go, and an engineering curriculum alone will not suffice. I am sure however that *The Honors Program* can and will foster the skills necessary to be a global leader. While I already began the process by pursuing a minor in Spanish, nothing compares to the rigorous academic and intellectual challenges that *The Honors Program* offers. I was not ready two years ago, but I am now. God is in control.