

# Statement Purpose

From the moment I first heard the words "Video Game Designer" uttered by my seventh-grade homeroom teacher, I was captivated by the idea of crafting the interactive worlds I had always treasured. Raised amidst the immersive realm of video games and interactive media, I realized my calling was to contribute to this dynamic field. A childhood steeped in educational computer games and console adventures laid the foundation for my journey into computer science and game design.

As I embarked on my academic path, my enthusiasm for video game design remained unwavering. My quest began with explorations beyond the classroom, from teaching assistant roles and IT internships to leadership in coding projects. The allure of video games wasn't confined to entertainment; it sparked my pursuit of knowledge. From probing the nexus of sexism in the gaming industry to investigating the potential of virtual reality for therapeutic purposes, I uncovered the multidisciplinary nature of game design.

My transition from teaching assistant to research assistant marked a pivotal juncture. I was tasked with devising a Girls in STEM program utilizing social robots to instill coding skills in middle school girls, a project that resonated deeply with my vision of bridging gender gaps through technology-driven education. Subsequent projects delved into the therapeutic applications of augmented and virtual reality, cementing my belief in the transformative potential of interactive experiences.

Stepping further into my undergraduate journey, I immersed myself in ACM's Video Game special interest group, mastering Unity, and realizing personal game projects. An internship at John Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab validated my career aspirations as I contributed to training simulations for the Department of Defense. This experience affirmed my conviction that video games can transcend entertainment, serving as powerful tools for education, healthcare, and inspiration.

Now, standing at the precipice of my academic journey, I seek an environment that will nurture and amplify my game design prowess. A program centered on video game design is uniquely aligned with my aspirations, offering an unparalleled opportunity to immerse myself fully in the art and science of game design. Through dedicated mentorship, cutting-edge resources, and collaboration with a diverse cohort, I envision honing my skills to create impactful, innovative games that resonate on a profound level.

Beyond this program, my ambitions are resolute. I aspire to merge with a passion for storytelling, art, and music, cultivating games that transcend entertainment to inspire, educate, and heal. Armed with a master's degree, I am poised to contribute my insights to the industry, or to shape the next generation of game designers and computer scientists through academia.

The journey I began with childhood fascination now stands at an inflection point. My love for video games remains steadfast, transformed into a driving force to contribute to this vibrant realm. As I look to the future, I am ready to embark on a new phase where my creations serve as a testament to the fusion of technology, art, and imagination.