

Statement Of Purpose: Hrishikesh Dhole

As the world becomes increasingly digital, we openly embrace the universality of data in every device or technology we use. I have always been fascinated by this omnipresence of data reaching into our lives. So, when I was introduced to computer science and coding as a teenager, I found myself mesmerized by the world of data. So, for my interest in this field, I have been focusing on my academic pursuits to this end.

As a school student, I have had a strong aptitude for science and mathematics-related subjects and a curiosity to learn more. I worked hard to get the best results and got an above-average score in the school. With adequate grades academically, I decided to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering.

I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering in 2021 with distinction from St. Vincent Pallotti College of Engineering and Technology, Nagpur. They were splendid four years of my academic life where I experienced the most challenging and memorable times. The program's inflexible curriculum was planned and challenging enough to bring out the best in me at college. I enjoyed studying various subjects such as Programming, Soft-Computing, Software Testing & Quality Assurance, and many more. And not just from the university, but to improve my practical skills, I have also done online graded courses on Machine Learning, Artificial Neural Networks, and Deep Learning. I keep myself updated with the latest trends in technology by reading through several research papers and technical magazines.

During my final year, I worked on a project titled "Gesture-Based Automation System." This project aims to control various computer applications such as media players, web browsers, and PowerPoint presentations using different hand gestures. We used datasets to train our gesture recognition model and connect them with hotkeys of our keyboard to give controls to the functions of the applications (here, we use these gestures to control the VLC media player). We used various concepts of Artificial Neural Networks, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, and Python as a programming language to build this project.

Based on this project, we decided to publish a survey paper titled "Discrete Gesture Recognition Techniques." This survey paper was about different gesture recognition techniques used by other developers in various technological projects. Our survey paper was published in an international journal named IJARIIT (International Journal of Advance Research, Ideas, and Innovations in Technology). I received high grades due to this project. The professors appreciated me since I was the project leader and delivered the appropriate work as per expectations in coordination with my team. With the core knowledge in the field, I did an internship mainly on web development and handling and regularly updating the website. It allowed me to work through many scripts and optimize a website. I have also done certified courses from Udemy and Coursera online in machine learning, ANN (Artificial Neural Networks), and Deep Learning which has developed my proficiency in Data Science with Machine learning.

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Besides academics, I was involved in various organizations such as the NSS (National Service Scheme), CSI (Computer Society of India), and ACM (Automated Computer Machinery) Student chapter. I was Class Representative during my 1st and 2nd year. I was elected as a Treasurer in our ACM Student Chapter in my third year. As a treasurer, my responsibilities were to maintain all chapter financial records and checkbooks and coordinate membership procedures and fees with the membership chairperson. With my excellent track record and my contributions to the chapter during that whole year, I was elected as Vice-chairperson in my final year.

For my future, I want to make a career in data science by pursuing MS in Data Science. This graduate program will train me in statistical analysis methods and the programming knowledge needed to complete large data-driven tasks. I look forward to enhancing my programming and mathematical shrewdness through my coursework. Additionally, the opportunities to work with industry partners on the projects will give me additional experience working directly on relevant topics of the field. Finally, this graduate program will provide me with the knowledge and technical expertise that I will need to continue my career as a data scientist.