

My fascination with artificial intelligence sparked in high school (2015-2016) when I began coding via Milton High School's programming pathway—a rare and fortunate opportunity. Witnessing Google DeepMind's AlphaGo defeat a world Go champion was a profound revelation of AI's potential, shattering my perceived technological limits and igniting a lasting interest in developing such intelligent machines, decisively setting my academic and professional trajectory.

To explore these interests, I pursued computer science at Kennesaw State University (KSU). A transformative summer internship which turned into a contract role at MagMutual Insurance. Despite limited initial full-stack knowledge, I quickly integrated into a professional team, contributing meaningfully to a significant web application. This immersive experience provided a comprehensive education in agile processes, diverse development technologies, and real-world software practicalities.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted my move from Georgia to Florida, and in 2022, I joined the University of South Florida (USF) Information Science program. After debating between web development and data science concentrations, my MagMutual experience steered me towards Web Development Technologies. I graduated Cum Laude in May 2024 (GPA: 3.67). My Senior Capstone involved building a full-stack PHP/MySQL application with comprehensive CRUD data handling..

Post-graduation, observing AI-powered tools like Cursor seamlessly integrating into full-stack workflows crystallized my desire to specialize in AI. My core interest is in leveraging AI to modernize and enhance the software development process. The new Master of Science in Data Intelligence (MSDI) program at USF presents the ideal opportunity to acquire the specialized knowledge needed for this vision.

The USF MSDI program is my clear choice. The programs focus on "data synthesis, modeling and computational skills... [to] extract intelligence...and utilize them in business decision making" and "solving large-scale problems" directly supports my ambition to architect AI-driven development solutions. As a USF alumnus familiar with its excellent academic environment, and having built a strong community in Tampa over three years, continuing at USF feels like a natural progression. I am interested in potentially combining the computational and decision-making tracks to earn both the MSDI degree and an AI Graduate Certificate within two years.

My primary objective is to become an AI Engineer focused on innovative AI solutions to revolutionize the full-stack development lifecycle. I aim to contribute to a future where AI intelligently assists in application creation. The MSDI program is the crucial catalyst to transform my foundational interest and practical experience into specialized expertise. I am confident in my capacity to excel and contribute valuably to the USF graduate community and the AI field.

Thank you for your consideration.