

9.29.2020

Dear Ms. Mercado and the Admissions Board,

My passion for aerospace engineering stems from my childhood love of aviation when my grandfather introduced me to model aircraft and rocketry. Since then I have followed the industry closely, getting excited with each innovation in aircraft and space flight. This experience inspired me to dive further into this field where I chose to pursue the Aerospace Engineering B.S. at UCF. In my studies, I found a thrill for thermodynamic system design, where I hope to continue my studies through a graduate degree in the **Thermofluid Aerodynamic Systems Design and Engineering Track**. During this degree, I look forward to interacting with undergraduate students as a GTA; having noticed the importance of a passionate GTA while pursuing my B.S., I yearn to fill that role for other students. While aiding in other students' experiences, this opportunity will allow me to continue building confidence in my abilities in aerospace design.

Throughout my B.S., thermodynamics, propulsion systems, and flight mechanics were among my favorite classes. Having the opportunity to continue my education in these disciplines would be thrilling. The power of experiential learning is important; I am interested in working for a research lab, and have been actively emailing professors and current graduate students whom I have grown to know during my B.S. Some of these professors have also been pointing me towards internships in the Orlando area. As a graduate student, I know that I would use the 'student' status to pursue internships at my dream companies (Lockheed Martin, SpaceX, and Northrop Grumman, to name a few).

I was never confident enough to push early applications for internships in my undergrad, so when I finally did realize their importance, I ended up having to take an out-of-major civil engineering internship. While I maximized learning what applicable knowledge I could during my time there, I am still looking for experiential learning that is directly related to my passion, and I believe being in this program can help me find that.

I am confident that pursuing a master's degree would be nothing but beneficial for both my educational knowledge and professional career goals. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hopwood", written in a cursive style.

**Matthew Hopwood**

9.29.2020

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