What is something about yourself that is essential to understanding you? 250 words limit

What is it like to walk alone in the desert for seven days? If I stand in the middle of the border, what will happen? I often ask questions that no one seems to ask. My curiosity drives me to ponder the strangest questions and to find answers. One Summer, I hiked 70km in the Kumtag Deserts for seven days alone, determined to answer my question. Last Winter, I flew to Manchuria, where the China-Russia border lies. I stood in the middle of the borderline, and it was like standing between two distinct civilizations.

From these experiences, I was in awe of the various cultures and landscapes I encountered and satisfied.

As a film creator, I started to record my quest and posting them on Bilibili, a Chinese video site. These videos made me a thought leader in my community. My curiosity about childbirth pain led me to take a labor simulation. That video went viral among my friends, while motivating them to understand more about gender issues when many of them followed me to take that simulation.

I wish to keep my curiosity flaming like a lighthouse in the dark seas. I hope to ask more absurd questions in USC for the next four years and dedicate myself to find the answers.

Describe how you plan to pursue your academic interests and why you want to explore them at USC specifically. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections. (Approximately 250 words)

Inspired by my childhood experience playing Pokémon, I’ve always been attracted to Computer Science. I became even more fascinated by the subject when I realized that I could use CS to solve real-life problems.

From developing a cafeteria delivery app to save students’ time, to creating a notification app to remind students about college info sessions, I enjoy both the process of learning CS and applying it to bring convenience to others.

Furthermore, I see CS as a tool for expressing ideas. I am passionate about the Computer Science (Games) major because video game’s multi-dimensional interaction makes it the prime medium to disseminate ideas. Shocked by China’s lack of sex-education, I made a sex-education game with friends, attempting to use CS to invoke social changes. Although this game has sparked wide social discussion, its development was still limited by my technical gaps. USC provides courses like “Programming Game Engines” that will enable me to break such limits. Its Advanced Game Project also gives me the opportunity to create world-changing games and showcase them on USC’s Game Expo.

Additionally, my experience working as a software engineer intern at Axiom Technology led me to see the importance of interdisciplinarity. Therefore, I’m also interested in the interdisciplinary program- “NGOs and Social Change” because I need to employ CS in a societal context to solve social issues. I also hope to discover how social problems emerge under the track “Analyzing and Identifying Roots of Social Conflict” to seek particular solutions to solve them.

What do you personally expect to get out of studying engineering or computer science in college? (250 word limit)\*

I always invest a great passion in Computer Science because it is a powerful tool that transforms tedious works of many into simple clicks. Beyond solving real-life problems, CS could also be used to solve societal problems that could potentially benefit the whole world. I wish to discover how could I achieve this goal in the next four years of college.

Noticing the high expenses of STEM education in the world, I am developing a free code learning website to give everyone an opportunity to learn programming. However, developing such an international and complex website is challenging. I could enrich my CS skills by studying areas of Artificial Intelligence and Computing Algorithms to write an AI course recommendation system for my website. Under the CS Industry Affiliate program, I could engage in internships to gain valuable experiences for my future CS projects.

Learning a strong set of CS skill is not enough to use it for the good of the world. It is also important to identify why should I learn it and how could I apply it. USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society provides programs that enable me to discover how could I use CS to increase equality among us. In the center, I could explore the ways of using CS for social good such as adjusting city policies using AI under to improve homeless situation or developing video games that help veterans to recover from PTSD.

I wish not only to learn concrete CS skills in the college, but also how to use it for the good of the world.

While the world as a whole may be more technologically advanced than ever before, the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has outlined 14 Grand Challenges that engineers should focus on to improve life on the planet. Learn about the Grand Challenges at [www.engineeringchallenges.org](http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/" \t "_blank) and tell us which challenge is most important, and why. (250 word limit)\*

I believe that Advanced Personalized Learning is the most important challenge because it allows everyone to express their unique talents. A student might be bad at Standardized tests and has a relatively low GPA, but that doesn’t necessary mean he was less talented than the students with better academic performances. This world has a set of rules to evaluate people. It might be easy to implement, but it will also neglect the talented ones who don’t fit that set standard. Edison was a bad student when he was young, but he became the founder of General Electric.

I believe the Advanced Personalized Learning could help everyone to learn under curriculums fitting themselves, allowing them to optimize their performances and to learn with greatest interests. I am trying to implement this idea in my free programming learning website by having a personalized curriculum design system powered by AI, helping everyone to find the best approach to learn how to code.

It is important to have advanced personalized learning because education is the most important thing in the world. Without education, we have no differences from monkeys. Therefore, everyone should deserve the right to study equally. The right way to achieve academic equality is not to set a standardized test for the globe. Instead, it is to allow everyone to learn what they’re interested in and how they wish to learn. Education could only be truly equal when everyone believes what they’re learning is beneficial.

Advanced Personalized Learning

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