Just the idea of going to college, has never been a part of my dreams. Unlike my peers, I have never been so overwhelmed and excited whenever I heard Ivy league schools such as Harvard, Stanford, and Cornell etc. However, on the other hand, I have forever been excited about furthering my knowledge in the inner workings of a computer and devices in general. It is in this pursuit, that I found the non-bending essence of a college education, and hence, my decision to start this at the African Leadership University in Mauritius.

I am mostly motivated about college mainly because I will be the pioneer of the things I choose to study. Unlike high school, there won’t be a set list of courses for everyone to follow. Rather, I would have the chance to choose absurd combinations like Computer Science and music, or Mathematics and Pop Culture. I am excited because I will not be forced to take any courses that do not directly relate to the field I would like to be involved in, in future. I will not be forced to study Biology with Chemistry, or Physics with Geography or set schemes like in higshchool. Therefore, even in the hardest times studies would still be enjoyable, due to the passion I have for my field – computer science.

Over the years in high school, I haven’t been a big fan of long texts that did not relate directly to technology. Because of that, I never finished many of my readings. Here at ECA, one of my goals is to be able to finish all readings in due time, and to be able to finish all responses to them and to be able to participate keenly in class.

Even though I am aware of how college is different from high school, I still believe I am well prepared and very ready for this new and next system of education. By ready, I believe I am somewhat time conscious enough to be aware of deadlines. I know I am disciplined enough to still stick to my books even in the absence of my strict teachers to force me, and financially disciplined enough to be able to manage any amount of money I make or I am given, over the longest periods.

Throughout my life, my biggest achievements are learning to code with junk videos on YouTube, and learning to play the piano, just by looking at different people play at church.

Each one of them generally involved sheer perseverance and timely practice sessions: a lot of practice sessions.

For coding:

I mapped out what I wanted to do with the particular programming language I wanted to learn.

I wrote down what the application was supposed to do for its users.

I wrote down what was important to me and the users. (i.e. Whether I cared about the interface of what I was making. And if I didn’t, would the users of the app care? What were the consequences?)

I broke down the main parts of the app I wanted to make into smaller units and sections before I attacked them bit by bit.

Example: I would break down a shopping application into units like:

* Signup phase
* Login
* Main shopping area.
* Cart items and functionalities
* And payment methods.

And then after these broad categorizations, I would further break each part down into what would be involved in say “Signup phase”.

After that, I would then read articles, watch videos and tutorials on how to create a “Signup page” in say “php”, that is if I wanted to create my app in php.

Following these steps, in no time and very quickly, the whole picture of the shopping app would fit together nicely and excellently.

I used the same breaking-down-into-smaller-units method to learn how to play Ghanaian songs on the piano too, and for this, I am very proud.