

# Personal History Statement

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*Jianan Zhou*

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My desire to major in computer science derives from Steve Job. His experiences and contribution to the world prompt me to be an innovative developer. “Follow your heart, keep hungry and keep stupid”, a quote by Steve Job, has always been a driving force to remind me to follow my interests and keep my urge of pursuing knowledge to further my study at a graduate level.

My volunteer work in poor regions also contributes to my decision to pursue continuous learning in a graduate program. I realized that how little I can do for them when I saw the inconvenient life they had. I could bring them temporal happiness every Sunday afternoon, but I could not make their lives any better in a real sense. I was frustrated for a while and wondered what could make a real difference. Then, I read the book, *The Moral Landscape*, in which Sam Harris argues that science and technology can help answer moral problems and aid human beings. I started to understand this. In this way I formed my faith, and I wanted to use technology to help the unfortunate. In order to gain a comprehensive understanding, I focused on my major and began to take my academic studies more seriously.

Now I have prepared myself for the next step in my professional and academic journey through my undergraduate degree by studying challenging coursework, engaging in cutting-edge research, and making dedicated efforts to diversify myself and my experiences through extracurricular activities. The undergraduate curriculum at Northeastern University has provided me with a concrete background in math, software engineering, computer science, and a wide spectrum of wide range of engineering knowledge. I thrive under pressure and studying at one of the top software engineering programs in China has given me the motivation to rank among the top students in the department.

My background made me out of ordinary. I am the person who has kindness of heart, insightful perspectives, unique personality and superior ability. I believe I could contribute to educational, social and cultural diversity in UC Riverside.