

Profile

Personal information

Name	GOYAL, SOUMIL
Share different name	No
Birthdate	02/08/2006

Contact details

Email, Phone	soumil.goyal@yahoo.com.sg, +1.832-212-5160, Mobile, No other telephone
Permanent address	1415 Bonnie Brae St Apt F Houston, TX, 77006-5280, USA

Demographics

Gender Identity	Male
Sex	Male
Pronouns	He/Him
Military status	None

Language

Hindi	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
English	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Mandarin	Speak, Read, Write

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status	Citizen of non-U.S. country
Birthplace	Mumbai, India 9 years US
Other citizenships	Singapore
Current US Visa	E-2 Dependent of Treaty Investor, 20222298780003 Issued: 08/25/2022

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested Yes, Signed: Soumil Goyal

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Both Parents

Parent 1

Mother

Name	Mrs. Dolly Goyal (Mittal)
Email, Phone	dreamgirl2106@yahoo.com, +1.832-773-9978, Mobile
Occupation	Other, Dance Teacher, Self-Employed
Education	Graduated from trade school or community college Masters (2002), MKP College, New Road race course, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

Parent 2

Father

Name	Mr. Ashish Goyal
Email, Phone	ashigoyal1@gmail.com, +1.281-687-9342, Mobile
Occupation	Engineer, Employed, Worley
Education	Graduated from trade school or community college Other (1999), Amravati University, New Express Highway, Ram Meghe Square, Badnera, Amravati, Maharashtra, India

Siblings

Dhruv Goyal, Age 13

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

Mirabeau B Lamar Senior High School, 3325 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX, USA, Public, CEEB: 443405 (09/2020 - 06/2024)

Progression	No change in progression
Graduation Date	06/2024

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank	18 / 755, Weighted
GPA	4 / 4, Unweighted

Current or most recent year courses

First semester	Second semester
CALC - IB HL AA Mathematics - (IB)	CALC - IB HL AA Mathematics - (IB)
PHYS - IB HL Physics - (IB)	PHYS - IB HL Physics - (IB)
LANG - IB HL Mandarin Chinese - (IB)	LANG - IB HL Mandarin Chinese - (IB)
COMPSCI - IB HL Computer Sciences - (IB)	COMPSCI - IB HL Computer Sciences - (IB)
ENG - IB HL English Language and Literature - (IB)	ENG - IB HL English Language and Literature - (IB)
HIST - IB Psychology SL - (IB)	HIST - IB Psychology SL - (IB)
	OTH/ELE - IB Theory of Knowledge - (IB)
	HIST - Personal Financial Literacy & Economics - (GFTED)

Honors

Vex World Inspiration All Star Award, FIRST District Engineering Inspiration Award, & 19+ trophies	State/Regional, International	10, 11, 12
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2x Debate Nationals Qualifier; 2nd-Ranked Extemporaneous Speaker in NSDA South Texas	State/Regional, National	10, 11, 12
Autodesk University Industry Talk Host (2023)	International	12
Future Engineers Veterans' Pin Design Challenge Finalist	National	11
Ambition Accelerator Top Voted Idea & "Inspirational" - Mark King (Taco Bell CEO)	National	11

Community-based organizations

CBO 1	Lamar College Corner
Counselor	Mrs. Cristal Hernandez
Email, Phone	Cristal.Hernandez@houstonisd.org
CBO 2	Communities In Schools
CBO 3	Lamar Writing Lab

Future plans

Other, Roboticist, Doctorate

Activities

Robotics

9, 10, 11, 12
School, Break, Year
14 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President, DiscoBots: FRC, Vex, Combat Robotics, and Outreach Teams

Manage 100+ members & 10 teams to create industrial-level, internationally accomplished robots; made team history in most awards each season.

Research

10, 11, 12
Break
3 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Founder/President, Robust Adaptive Network Disaster Response System

Invent & lead a novel solution to disaster response with support of the Mayor of Houston, Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, ION Houston, and more.

Athletics: JV/Varsity

9, 10, 11, 12
School, Break, Year
9 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Other Sport, Black-Belt & Jyokyonim (Instructor), Houston Center For Taekwondo

Learn & compete under the World Taekwondo Federation for sparring, forms, and weapons. Help guide ~10 state-level competing students.

Debate/Speech

10, 11, 12
School
6 hr/wk, 37 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President , Lamar Competition Speech & Debate Team

Competed nationally; guide 50+ students in NSDA, TXFA, UIL and HUDL tournaments; managed through administration to handle organizational tasks.

Other Club/Activity

10, 11, 12
School
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Founder/President, Pedal Power Community Project

Solo community welfare project of off-grid, resilient, and climate aware power generation solutions. Won \$750 from NWF and installed the project.

Internship

11, 12
School, Break
4 hr/wk, 19 wk/yr
Continue

Intern & CNC Specialist, ION Houston Prototyping Lab
Restored a professional CNC machine for community use; maintained this industrial facility's manufacturing & engineering equipment.

Internship

10, 11, 12
School, Break
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Web Developer/Designer, Steps For Dancing
Learned to design, program, and launch websites; Create and maintain an online presence to help my mother's startup:
<https://www.stepsfordancing.com>

Theater/Drama

9, 10, PG
School
12 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Troupe Officer & Varsity Play Productions Actor, International Thespians Honours Society
Acted in various lead, sub-lead, and technical roles for play productions; coordinated productions, rehearsals, and competitions amongst ~50 members.

Science/Math

12
School
4.5 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr
Continue

Team Captain/President, Lamar Competition Mathematics Team
Compete at a regional and state level in 3 events; manage and mentor 15+ students in competition, SAT, UIL, and higher-level mathematics.

Community Service (Volunteer)

10, 11, 12
School
1.5 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Den Chief; Patrol Lead (2021), Boy Scouts of America (Troop 55)
Achieved Star ranking in USA's largest troop; Volunteer to guide younger scouts in new skills & activities; organized camps and lessons for my patrol

Writing

Personal essay

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

“Let’s walk around this way” someone says, but I can’t hear them. While all others are on their detour, I am spellbound to this hulking giant. Its rusty forks unfold with a practiced ease, aligning perfectly with the sleeves of the commercial waste unit. The machine raises this vessel with a confidence born of experience, feeling the weight through the depression of its front-axle suspension. A tonal battle-cry echoes as the truck maneuvers backward for its full range of motion, emitting a series of 'beep beep beep' signals. Once in the perfect position, the hydraulic arms spring into action, swinging the massive load over the front, creating resonating clanking vibrations that ripple through the surroundings; turning the mundane act of waste disposal into my captivating spectacle. As the payload is turned upside down, it’s hung high over the receiving hopper, dumping the avalanche of waste. In this moment, the *dump truck* is more than just a machine; it's a reminder of my identity, interests, and mindset.

Whenever I find a fascinating piece of software, structure, or science, I lose track of time putting myself in the position of that product developer. I observantly ponder on the foresight the engineers had to make sure that the garbage truck’s forks are still usable even if the vehicle is on an incline. I admire the programmers that created robust threads of continuous sensor-checks that protect from thousands of failures. I look up to the designers that had to make sure the garbage truck’s center of gravity would remain positioned well enough that swinging the heavy bin over the front wouldn’t be a hazard.

All of these ingenious thinkers juggled countless factors like durability, cost, safety, manufacturing difficulty, regulations, repairability, and time-constraints to finish this spectacular product; an invention that performs as the backbone of essential infrastructure. As I look up to being part of that impactful community, I am also continuously thankful that I have the opportunity to lead in a similar way. From my current experience as the team captain of a large, growing robotics team, I practice the intricate trade-offs, balances, and decision making required of a successful leader. As I manage 50+ students across 7 separate schools to develop industrial-level, internationally competing robots, I regularly face crossroads where all decisions come with a list of cons and wishes of pros. Every path is uncertain: every path looks good, yet every path seems bad. Although such a position repels the majority of minds, I find myself, again, spellbound by the role of this leader. I swiftly, yet level-headedly, analyze possibilities to proceed on the best path, conquering obstacles, failures, and surprises along the way. Rewardingly, these successes never happen alone, in the same way that garbage trucks don't function without waste containers, and how the whole system doesn't work without landfills. Whether it’s friends, colleagues, acquaintances, or rivals, I recognize the vitality of collaboration and work with all to achieve greater accomplishments.

Additionally, as I advance through this maze of choices, I make use of my deeply reflective nature to squeeze all the lessons learned from any result through the process. This builds a collection of clues and maps, an arsenal of experience to guide future journeys. Moreover, I am always ready to discard any opinion or notion proven wrong along the way, disciplining myself that my attachment to any beliefs should not restrict my potential and my actions.

This combination of observation, decision-making, leadership, and reflection is a core mentality so meaningful to me, that all my successes are attributed to this critical mindset. More importantly, all my failures are systematically reflected upon and built from to enhance my overall foresight and character for the future. With this talent, a cornerstone of my identity, I hope to create for the world many collections of new, insightful developments, providing others the opportunity of finding their own version of my dump truck.

Community disruption

My family and friends have endured the Mumbai Floods, Turkey Earthquakes, Hurricane Harvey, and Winter Storm Uri. These events left a profound impact on my outlooks and initiatives.

Living through the floods, storms, winds, ice, and debris was an ever-present sense of impending doom. It was scary knowing if there was some emergency, we had no means of calling for help. It was dreadful knowing that as our supplies dwindled, there were no shops to stock up essentials.

Despite these experiences, I consider myself lucky that my immediate family escaped permanent harm. This fortune reminded me of the capricious, unforgiving nature of such events and their far-reaching consequences.

This recognition of the unresolved challenges society faces in dealing with natural disasters led me to inventing the Robust Adaptive Network (RAN). RAN is a system of drones and rovers that provides essential cell signals, delivers urgent supplies, and relays important information during disasters. I've worked on this project with support from the Mayor of Houston, the Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, Ashoka, ION Houston, and more.

Even with my programming models, 3D designs, and prototypes, I acknowledge the years of challenges ahead in realizing my invention. This is a significant reason I want to study robotics in college. I believe that many global problems can be addressed through advances in engineering and computer science. My pursuit of this world-class education and my insights from personal experience drive me to solve pressing issues in the world.

Additional information

1) My family and I are from India, but moved to Singapore, and now we live in the US. One unique result of this (which I wasn't able to appropriately highlight in the other sections) is my proficiency in Hindi, Mandarin, and English.

I hold the traditional backgrounds and perspectives of my heritage to be very valuable. This is one of the reasons I maintain a native proficiency in my mother tongue, Hindi. Along with this, my education outside home has been in English, so I am also natively proficient in English.

However, after being born in India and immigrating to Singapore, I decided to pursue learning Mandarin so I could better connect with the vast majority of Singaporeans who are Chinese. Even after advice against learning this impossible language at that late age (especially since most Singaporeans speak English anyways), I worked hard to learn the language and surpassed some native speakers of my age. Although I am now in the US, where I lack much incentive to keep up my Mandarin, I still practice and improve. I have written essays, won speech contests, and can hold a proper conversation in Mandarin. I am especially proud of this skill because I do not have any Chinese relatives/background to build off of, I instead had to start independently and have successfully reached a respectable position.

2) As a citizen of Singapore, I will have to complete a compulsory National Service after my high school completion. After this experience, I hope to bring back lessons from a novel experience and a rare perspective to the Rice community.

3) I would like to highlight some of my community involvements. In addition to my impact-driven projects, activities, and interests, I also dedicate substantial time to volunteering in community programs and initiatives. Here is a link to my community-hours log:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NMJOxV938lkRo2drqXECyAFeHCo1ZYmL/>

I also want to show that not only do I serve my communities thoroughly, but my communities recognize me back. For example, in the end of my 10th grade year, I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Vex Robotics World Championship (2022). I have also been a speaker at the General Consulate of India. Additionally, Autodesk (a prominent engineering software company) accepted me to be an industry speaker where CEOs, business leaders, and professionals will attend my full-capacity session.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Soumil Goyal

Education progression

Details

Education progression details No change in progression

Rice University questions

General

Preferred start term:	Fall 2024
Admission plan:	Early Decision
Early Decision Agreement:	Yes, I have read and understand my rights and responsibilities under the Early Decision Process. I wish to be considered as an Early Decision candidate at Rice University. I also understand that with an Early Decision offer of admissions, this institution may share my name and my early commitment with other institutions. Soumil Goyal
School-specific fee waiver:	No
Financial aid:	Yes
College Board Recognition Y/N	No
Identify as LGBTQIA	No

Academics

SAT/ACT Considered?	Yes
Academic school	Engineering
First Choice Major	Mechanical Engineering
Second Choice Major	Computer Science
Third Choice Major	Electrical and Computer Engineering
English Instruction	Yes

Contacts

Previously applied:	No
Contact 1:	Rice Student, Alois Chipfurutse
Contact 2:	Rice Summer Camp
Contact 3:	Rice Alumni/ae, Kenny Baldwin
Contact 4:	On-Campus Tour, 06/2023
Contact 5:	Rice Alumni/ae, Riley Brooks
Contact 6:	College Fair, 10/2023
Contact 7:	Rice Student, Zachary Sarver
Contact 8:	Rice Alumni/ae, Amitabha Kumar

Contact 9:	Rice Student, Salvador
Contact 10:	Rice Student, Diya
Text message authorization:	Yes
Mobile Phone Number:	+1.832-212-5160

Biographical Information

Birth country	India
City of birth	Mumbai
Citizenship Status	Non-Citizen (with valid US visa)
Anticipated Status change	No
Religion	Hindu

Family

Parent/Guardian 1 Birth country	India
Birth City	Mussoorie
Is living?	Yes
Occupation	Engineer
Employment status	Employed
Position/Title	Quality Engineer
Current Employer	Worley
Parent/Guardian 2 Birth Country	India
Birth City	Dheradun
Is Living?	Yes
Occupation	Dance Teacher
Employment status	Self-Employed
Parent different address	No
Sibling Attends College	No
Sibling Applied:	No
Relatives Attended:	No
Relative Employed at Rice:	No

Austin or Trinity Employee	No
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Additional Background Information

U.S. Armed Forces	No
Naval ROTC	No
Air Force ROTC	No
School discipline Y/N	No
Criminal history	No

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: <http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.