

## 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, +65.85485804, Mobile
Permanent address	33 Margaret Drive, #32-230 Singapore, 140033, SGP

### 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: 09/20/2024

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## Common App fee waiver

**Fee waiver requested**      Yes, Signed: SOUMIL GOYAL

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# Family

## Household

<b>Parents</b>	Married
<b>Home</b>	Other, Alone (not supported by any parents nor guardians)

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## Parent 1

### Mother

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

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## Parent 2

### Father

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

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## Siblings

Dhruv Goyal, Age 14

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# 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)**

<b>Progression</b>	No change in progression
<b>Graduation Date</b>	06/2024

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## Colleges & universities

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### Grades

<b>Rank</b>	18 / 755, Weighted
<b>GPA</b>	4 / 4, Unweighted

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## Current or most recent year courses

<b>First semester</b>	<b>Second semester</b>
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 SL Computer Sciences - (IB)	COMPSCI - IB SL 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)

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### Honors

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

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## Community-based organizations

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

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## Future plans

Other, Roboticist, Doctorate

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# Activities

## Robotics

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## **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>

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## **Theater/Drama**

9, 10  
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.

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## **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.

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## **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

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# 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 the others are on their detour, I am spellbound by 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. Once ready, it swings the massive load over the front, 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 an 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.

In the same way I was transfixed by the dump truck’s machinery, 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 ponder on the foresight the engineers had to make certain 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 who had to ensure 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 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 serves as a backbone of essential infrastructure.

As I aspire to be part of that impactful community of makers, I am continuously thankful that I have the opportunity to lead in a similar way. For example, 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. While managing 80+ members 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 deters most minds, I find myself, again, spellbound by the role of this leader. I swiftly, yet level-headedly, analyze possibilities to proceed on the best-seeming path, conquering obstacles, failures, and surprises along the way.

Additionally, these successes never happen alone. Akin to the way that garbage trucks don’t function without waste containers, and the whole system doesn’t work without landfills, I recognize the vitality of collaboration and work with all to achieve greater accomplishments.



Furthermore, 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 approach, a cornerstone of my identity, I aim to leverage these traits in guiding teams towards collaborative success.

By weaving the harmony of curiosity, adaptability, and resilience into the fabric of leadership, I endeavor to inspire others in navigating our world's intricate terrains, unveiling unique, impactful solutions—each akin to their own dump truck, a critical culmination of multifaceted design with purposeful execution.

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## 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.

But even with my current programming models, 3D designs, and system prototypes, I acknowledge the years of challenges ahead in realizing my invention. This is a significant reason of I want to

study Engineering and Computer Science in college. I believe that many global problems can be addressed through advances in technologies similar to RAN. My pursuit of your world-class education and my insights from personal experience drive me to solve pressing issues in the world.

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## Additional information

1) After my birth in India, my family relocated to Singapore, where we settled and gained citizenship. Unexpectedly, when I was 8, we moved to the US for a 2-year project in my father's job. However, as that job lengthened to various reassignments and the 2 years extended indefinitely, I have now lived in the US for 9 years. However, as still a Singaporean citizen, I now face my mandatory military service term.

The prospect of diverging from the traditional trajectory and delaying my college experience is undeniably disheartening. While the excitement of higher academics approaches for many, I have to trudge on a different path. It's easy to perceive this as a setback, an interruption to the flow of education and personal growth, but I choose to cultivate a positive mindset. I see this national service commitment as a unique chapter in my life's narrative. It's an opportunity to embrace a change in lifestyle and forge bonds in my old home. By approaching this mandatory service with an open mind, I anticipate gaining valuable insights and skills that will enrich my future journey.

Rather than viewing these two years as a delay, I see them as an investment in a more holistic self. Now, being 6-months into my NS, I am on-track to become an Officer for the SAF, an opportunity for only the top 10% of all Singaporean boys and the highest rank achievable by any National-Serviceman. After I commission as a Second-Lieutenant, I'll be a Platoon Commander, responsible for at least 64 lives under my leadership. Through my NS, I have also earned the IPPT Gold Award, and Best Company Award.

2) One unique result of my Indian, Singaporean, and American culture exposure 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.

3) I would like to highlight some of my community involvements, here is a link to my community-hours log: <https://soumilgoyal.com/index.html#community-service-log>

Through this record, you can see that a majority of my community service hours log are dedicated to actions like teaching younger peers or volunteering at educational competitions. One reason for this is because of the high value I place on education. I am grateful for inspiring education I have received, and I admire the power to inspire others similarly. Additionally, especially relating to my 90+ hours of community service towards multiple competition, as a competitive student, I have been thankful for all the competitions I have been able to participate in. Amongst these events, none of them ran without volunteers, meaning that my accolades, skills, and experiences were built upon the gracious selflessness of other volunteers. From this, I have a calling to continue their impacts by volunteering in competitions, ensuring that any other students will have the opportunity of smooth, fair, and constructive competitions.

Thanks for reviewing my application.

Sincerely,

**Soumil Goyal**

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# Education progression

## Details

**Education progression details**      No change in progression

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# Rice University questions

## General

<b>Preferred start term:</b>	Fall 2025
<b>Admission plan:</b>	Regular Decision
<b>School-specific fee waiver:</b>	No
<b>Financial aid:</b>	Yes

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## Academics

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

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## Contacts

<b>Previously applied:</b>	Yes
<b>Previous entry term</b>	Fall 2024
<b>Contact 1:</b>	Rice Summer Camp
<b>Contact 2:</b>	Rice Alumni/ae, Riley Brooks
<b>Contact 3:</b>	Rice Alumni/ae, Kenny Baldwin
<b>Contact 4:</b>	On-Campus Tour, 06/2023
<b>Contact 5:</b>	Rice Student, Alois Chipfurutse
<b>Contact 6:</b>	College Fair, 10/2023
<b>Contact 7:</b>	Rice Alumni/ae, Amitabha Kumar
<b>Contact 8:</b>	Rice Student, Zachary Sarver
<b>Contact 9:</b>	Rice Student, Salvador
<b>Contact 10:</b>	Rice Student, Diya
<b>Text message authorization:</b>	Yes
<b>Mobile Phone Number:</b>	+65.85485804

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## Biographical Information

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

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## Family

<b>Parent/Guardian 1 Birth country</b>	India
<b>Birth City</b>	Mussoorie
<b>Is living?</b>	Yes
<b>Occupation</b>	Engineer
<b>Employment status</b>	Employed
<b>Position/Title</b>	Quality Engineer
<b>Current Employer</b>	Sempra Infrastructure
<b>Parent/Guardian 2 Birth Country</b>	India
<b>Birth City</b>	Dehradun
<b>Is Living?</b>	Yes
<b>Occupation</b>	Dance Teacher
<b>Employment status</b>	Self-Employed
<b>Parent different address</b>	Yes
<b>Which parent has a different address</b>	Parent 1, Parent 2
<b>Parent 1 Address</b>	1415 Bonnie Brae St Apt F Houston, TX, 77006-5280, USA
<b>Parent 2 Address</b>	1415 Bonnie Brae St Apt F Houston, TX, 77006-5280, USA
<b>Sibling Attends College</b>	No
<b>Sibling Applied:</b>	No
<b>Relatives Attended:</b>	No
<b>Relative Employed at Rice:</b>	No
<b>Austin or Trinity Employee</b>	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

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## Affirmations

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