**Computer Science Personal Statement**

It has never occur to me that one of these days I would have to write a personal statement for a graduate program for Computer Science. When I was young, I have always picture myself as an auto mechanic guy or even worse, working at a fast food restaurant. I picture myself as an auto mechanic not because I wanted to but the fact that my entire relatives do not think that I am capable of having a better career. In college, I started out as an Electrical Engineer major assuming that it would be an interesting field to get in to. However, I was wrong because I rarely go to class and did not concentrate in all my engineering studies. Therefore, education did not matter to me as much until March of 2000 when I was accepted for an Intern position at Spawar. While working at Spawar, I was asked by my supervisor many simple questions such as, "what is a capacitor formula?" That question was supposedly being an easy answer for all electrical engineer major but, I had no clue whatsoever on how to answer it. Thus, I felt very incompetent to be in this field and decided to change my major to Computer Science (CS). After switching over to CS I am proudly to say that I am doing extremely well in all my classes with a passing grade of at least a "B" or better. Now that I found my true career, I have never thought of ever becoming a mechanic again because working with computer is much easier plus, I enjoy it

In my three years of working experience related to my field of study, I have seen and coded many software programs for the real world application. During those times I was employed at three different companies. The first company I work for is Spawar. While working for Spawar I had to write up program using C/C++ to control the solar motor, plus using MATLAB to analyze and visualize each of the simulation. I work with a group of engineering to come up with a solution on how to embed my program into their hardware so that the solar achieve maximum functionality. Besides coding programs, I also design and soldier circuit board and then embedded my program into it

After working with Spawar for a year I landed myself a 2nd shift job with NMCI as a software tester writing scripts for legacy application so that it would communicate with newer application like windows 2000

Following that job, I worked as a consultant for Computer Vision and my duties was to manually install application for each of the workstation for NMCI users. This job was beneficial to me because it gave me a chance to improve my communication skills. Throughout, my entire job experiences helped me to develop my inner awareness by the skills and experiences I learn and obtain through hands on training I receive from work

While taking cases at San Diego State University (SDSU), I enjoy assisting other students with their programming assignments. Helping others, in return also helps me by giving me a chance to learn more and understanding the importance of being a programmer. When I help my other colleagues I just don't write up the codes but instead help them to understand why and how I came up with each line of code. Many of my colleagues appreciate having me as a friend because I am persistent in helping them out whenever possible. This goes to show that I am a valuable contribution to this University

My favorite hobby is to built personal computers therefore, during my free time I enjoy going to the local computer store to see if they have any good deals on computer parts. I love to build personal computer for friends and family members for free of change because in return, I gain knowledge. As a result of building so many computers that I would dare to say that I am capable of building a computer in less than an hour. Beside an interest in building computers, I also have an interest in playing tennis during the weekends. Back in high school a couple years ago I played varsity tennis for three years and two years at Mesa Community College

With my expertise in computers and people skills that I have acquire over the years, I believe that SDSU would benefit by having me as part of their graduate program. In addition to my y extensive knowledge in computer and people skills this makes me a valuable candidate for this program. I enjoy helping people and I look forward to sharing my thoughts and ideas with other students and faculty members. With my acceptance to the graduate program here at SDSU there is only one outcome and that is a "win-win" situation for both party.

Growing up in Canada with a life-long fascination for Canadian geography and the environment, I have always been interested in returning to the country. Although my family moved to the United States before I entered high school, I have always kept my eyes turned north, especially in recent years as I began to read journal articles about research conducted at the University of Alberta on John Evans Glacier, located about 80° N latitude. Now I see the opportunity to return to my birthplace and study a topic I am passionate about. Graduating next semester with a B.S. in computer science and engineering and a minor in geographic information systems, I am especially interested in attending the University of Alberta for graduate study.

Geographic information systems (GIS) is a field especially suited to investigating spatial patterns, unearthing elusive geographic parameters, modeling diverse scenarios and overlaying spatial data. This semester, in my advanced GIS course, Spatial Data Structures and Algorithms, I am part of a team developing a temporal database and program for tracing historical trading data. My computer science skills have also been put to use in two summer internship projects, where I acquired proficiency with using LIDAR (light detection and ranging) technology, now favored by NASA in its current 10-year study of Greenland and changes in the ice cap extent. Through my coursework and project experience, I have also accrued skills in using Arc/Info, ArcView, Microstation, and RDBMS software packages, and I am equally comfortable programming in Visual Basic, C++ and Java.

For my graduate research project, I would like to investigate methods for improving current GIS data models to better incorporate time as a variable in studying climate change. Changes in glaciers and polar environments occur rapidly, and these changes become important indicators of broader, potentially catastrophic, global changes. By developing and applying temporal GIS methods to glaciology, I can contribute to improved spatio-temporal analysis techniques that will provide better insights into the factors impacting the polar environment and glaciers. In addition, I can discern which temporal methods generally serve as the best predictors, and provide benefits to the GIS research community that apply to areas other than glaciology.

Once completing my master's program, my long-term goals include either entering the GIS field as a professional consultant or continuing my research and earning my Ph.D. at another program of international reputation. Having advanced experience with temporal GIS technology would make me a valuable consultant to a company, especially in the twin burgeoning fields of computer science and GIS. If I decide to continue on the research path, I would be most interested in a Ph.D. program that allows me to conduct field research in Antarctica.

The University of Alberta is an ideal location for my master's degree study because it allows me to integrate my facility for computer science with my chosen application area—geology. My academic advisors and my own research into your university programs have confirmed your strengths in both computer science and glaciology, and the recent application of these areas to field research at Ellesmere Island in Nunavut, Canada, is especially appealing to me. With my deep-rooted interest in Canadian geology and recognition of the quality of your university programs, I hope you will give my application every consideration.

For more information on writing grad school personal statements, read the full article [Getting Personal](http://www.graduatingengineer.com/higher-education/20001106/Getting-Personal), from *Graduating Engineer & Computer Careers*, Nov. 2000.

*Joe Schall is the Giles Writer-in-Residence for the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Pennsylvania State University in University Park.*

Dear Sir/Madam,  
  
Hereby I would like to express my keen interest in the [University name], and particularly in the Master program in Computer Science.  
  
More than ten years ago, I was very fascinated when first introduced to the computer, and until now, computer still is the most exciting thing in my life. The more rapidly the power of Internet and information technology has risen, the bigger my interest in computer science, which I am studying as my undergraduate major in the [my current University], becomes.   
  
Admittedly, my own life-long goal is to be a professional computer scientist and the Master's degree program I have chosen – Computer Science, is surely not an accidental choice of mine since computer science itself and mathematics are no doubt the two areas which I enthusiastically engage in my whole life. When I was in high school, I already studied calculus, discrete maths, linear algebra, numerical computations in many advanced topics since my class was specialized in mathematics, and up until now, mathematics and algorithms are always my strengths. At the 12th grade, I was among the top ten students achieving first prize at city level, certificate of outstanding student in mathematics. During two years in the [my first university], I was in the top three students in A, B, and C subjects. For another two years in the [my current University (transfered from my first university)], I was the one who had highest grade in D, and E, and also among the best students in F, G, and H. Therefore, I strongly believe that I have the necessary combination of self-motivation, background, personality and academic knowledge to succeed in the Master's degree program.  
  
Outside the classroom, playing intelligent Real-time Strategy Games is one of my extra activities. It has helped me to improve my creative strategy thinking, develop leadership and collaboration skills with team members, and also, make new friends all over the world. I was one of the two most skillful StarCraft gamers in my country who was qualified to participate in the Grand World Cyber Game 2005 in Singapore.  
  
Furthermore, during two years studying in the United Kingdom as a transfer student from [my home country], I recognized that, beside academic knowledges and skills regarding to my course, I have gained many valuable experiences, discovered many new things, and become more and more independent as well as self-confident in this excellent education environment with appropriate teaching method and up-to-date teaching facilities. I also realized that United Kingdom is one of the best countries with an international reputation for innovative education, leading edge, practical research, and high ranking in the world. Finally, I truly know that I have enjoyed my time here very much, and hence, would like to continue my studies in your university to further improve my future prospects and my professional life. [this last sentence is for my current university]  
(for other universities: Finally, understanding that when it comes to quality education, I have no doubt that [uni name] is the appropriate one for me, since it provides the right academic climate and a unique mix of educational advantages, thus, I would like to continue my studies in your university to further improve my future prospects and my professional life.)  
  
Thank you in advance for considering my application. It would be a great honor for me if given an opportunity to pursue further studies at your highly esteemed university  
  
Yours sincerely,

It’s misleading that the personal statement is called a “personal” statement, since what admission

committees are really looking for is a research statement. What admission committees want is

a statement about what research you have done, what research you hope to do, and why you like

research.

Here’s a template if you need one:

i. First paragraph – Describe the general areas of research that interest you and why. (This is

helpful for a committee to determine which professors should read your application.)

ii. Second paragraph, Third, and Fourth paragraphs – Describe some research projects that you

worked on. What was the problem you were trying to solve? Why was it important? What

approaches did you try? What did you learn? It’s ﬁne to say that you were unable to fully

solve your problem.

iii. Fifth paragraph – Tell us why you feel you need a Ph.D.. Look back to section 2 and explain

what in there appealed to you.

iv. Sixth paragraph – Tell us why you want to come to CMU. Whom might you like to work with?

What papers have you looked at from CMU that you enjoyed reading? Why is CMU the right

place for you?

It’s important to realize that the research statement is not a commitment to do research in that

area. A third of all applicants end up working in an area different from that which they described on

their research statement.

Here are the common mistakes that many of our appl