Andrew Garcia

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Personal Statement

Academic and Professional Goals

Attending college courses and engaging in research has taught me something remarkable about myself, I am a lifelong learner that has a drive to make the world a better place. The reason I want to continue my education and undertake graduate work is because I am always looking for ways to make me a better person. I believe that studying and researching subjects in Electrical and Computer Engineering will give me motivation and further instill my passion for science and engineering. The world we live in is fast paced and technologically advanced, and I want to be at the forefront of that to use technology (such as Machine Learning, Wireless Technology, etc.) for making the future an exciting place to live in where we are living amongst the stars and enhancing the quality of life on Earth. This is why pursing graduate school is so important to me, because I want to use the latest knowledge that Virginia Tech has to offer and use that to make the world a better place.

Looking back at my achievements and involvement during college as an undergraduate, my first thought is always, “This has to be someone else’s resume right?” Going into my first year of college, I had an interest in space, science, and even built my first computer at home, so engineering sounded like the best choice for me. At the moment I never knew how impactful this single choice was for my life. Neither of my parents went to college, so I didn’t have an outline for how to navigate through such a difficult pursuit, all I knew was that my only obligation was to never stop no matter how difficult things got because there was no back up plan. Through the hurdles and inherent disadvantages, I had significant involvement in 3 major research projects, 2 of which had publications, was president of the IEEE Student Branch, received 4 major scholarships, and even got good at math amongst many other achievements. I believe this journey and these accomplishments, especially from a disadvantaged starting place, qualify me as a strong candidate for a graduate degree at Virginia Tech.

Through my courses and experience, I find the field of Machine Perception and Optics to be the most interesting to me. Currently in my work at Northrop Grumman, I work as a Data Analyst for satellite state of health data and sometimes that involves analysis of image data. I hope to have the opportunity to make further contributions in this field by making new discoveries using the skills I have and have yet to learn. The work that researchers do at universities by publishing research papers is imperative to the success for future technology, and I hope to be a significant contributor in this field.

Sincerely,

**ANDREW** GARCIA | Azusa Pathways Electronics Engineer

Northrop Grumman Corporation | Space Systems