**Describe how you plan to pursue your academic interests and why you want to explore them at USC specifically. Please feel free to address your first- and second-choice major selections. (Approximately 250 words)**

*A malfunctioning ammonia sensor and automatic faeces cleaner*: the farm figured it out too little too late. Not until after several batches of chickens contracted disease making them *unfit* for the food industry and leaving my parents’ poultry farm in a huge deficit.

I was stunned how a single pair of equipment malfunction could cause a large-scale setback. Scouring the web to gain insights on supply chain, logistics, and operations, I came across Industrial Engineers: those who perform failure analysis and optimize manufacturing processes using Math; it captivated me.

USC’s Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering’s curriculum would further my dream to scale-up my parents’ farm through effective optimization methods of integrated systems. The Work, Technology, and Organization course would provide me with knowledge about the effects of technology on work and organizational design, while Business Process Design would enhance my ability to improve business processes with technology. I also hope to collaborate with Professor Dr. Ali E. Abbas in his research on data-based decision and enhance my proficiency to delineate innovative techniques in solving large scale optimization problems.

At the Center For Advanced Manufacturing, I hope to be involved in various research facilities and labs, meet fellow future engineers, and learn from various experts that would certainly broaden my horizon. The Trojans’ collaborative community would support me to build, think, and pave the way for a bright future unbound by limitations.

Hi Octavio,

This is great!

I like how you mentioned about your desire to collaborate with Professor Dr. Ali E. Abbas, and be involved in various labs at the Center for Advanced Manufacturing – I think this is very specific to USC, which is great.

I’ve written in the comment box for some suggestion, if it is possible to make the courses, what you hope to learn, to be more specific as well.

Overall, good job and all the best! ☺