**In the past 3 to 4 years, what experience(s) have you had (inside or outside of the classroom) related to your selected first-choice major or academic interest?\* (150 words)**

Early memories of me playing games on my iPad had sparked my curiosity for how computer software or apps are developed. This drove me into taking computer science courses both inside and outside of school, where I learned several programming languages like Python, Java, and HTML just to name a few.

Trying to build up my skills, I began to integrate my programming skills into real-life situations, which turned my curiosity into a realization that technology has a big impact in making lives more convenient. One such example is when I created my own personal trainer app using Swift and Xcode. Before I knew it, this realization turned into passion. Wanting to further develop my skills, I challenged myself by interning as a backend developer at McEasy, a logistics tech startup, where I learned SQL and confirmed my passion for Computer Science.

Hi Vincent,

The essay here is well written with almost no grammatical errors, but doesn’t capture the prompt completely. I think if you omit the first paragraph and straight into is better to go straight to the point about your experiences. It is already obvious that you have interest in computer science and learnt programming languages as the admissions officer knows you’re applying to that major. Therefore start with the second paragraph and provide some more insight on your experiences as I have commented. No need to go too deep with it as you don’t have a lot of word count, possibly a sentence each more on each experience you have mentioned and you could add more maybe to fulfill the word count of any experience inside of school.

Let me or your mentor know if you have any questions!

* Anushka

**How does your selected first-choice major relate to your future career goals?\* (150 words)**

The fast progression of the world’s technological innovations and the irreconcilable evidence that digital technologies have significantly improved our quality of life. However, as we trust more and more of these advanced technologies, it comes with greater security risks. This realization has inspired me to become a tech entrepreneur with a vision of playing a vital role in advancing digital technology securities to the next level, such as cryptography.

In order to be able to develop robust and secure digital technologies, I believe that extensive knowledge of algorithm developments and competence in multiple programming languages is necessary. Therefore, there is no better choice for me than to pursue Computer Science at UIUC. UIUC’s competitive computer science program coupled with its plethora of courses on distributed systems, networking, and security would enable me to be one step closer to my goal of developing safe and secure digital usage.

Hi Vincent,

For this essay, I think you need to include more about your personal future goals rather than keep it general. The structure of this essay would then be: 1) your future career goals 2) How will your chosen major help contribute towards those goal?

Let me or your mentor know if you have any questions!

* Anushka