**Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?**

I can still recall the day my six-year-old self was given a rather disturbing image of my favorite food: strawberry yogurt. As a child who grew up learning that bacteria was living and harmful, the image of tiny insects swimming within the yogurt’s pools was alarming.

As I sat reading my AP Biology textbook, I constantly reread the section describing bacteria. However, those two pages weren’t enough to satisfy my curiosity. My interests in expanding my knowledge led to my discovery of the “Introduction to Laboratory Research” summer program at Johns Hopkins University, where I was introduced to bacterial transformation. Filled with the sudden urge to fight against harmful bacteria and infections, I desired to develop my own pharmaceutical company to produce health products with high efficacy. It was upon attending a seminar on skin bacteria that I thought of formulating plant-based pharmaceutical products.

Through the University of Michigan’s unparalleled research opportunities and facilities, I’ll gain exceptional research experience by collaborating with faculty members to engage in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). I’m particularly looking forward to the prospect of conducting research under the mentorship of Associate Professor Sunitha Nagrath from the Chemical Engineering department, whose research on utilizing engineering to generate impacts in medicine, life sciences, and the health industry, aligns with my interests. I’ve experimented with ingredients such as aloe vera, essential oils, and witch hazel to formulate my own natural soaps and hand-sanitizers in an attempt to help children in local schools in my society. I seek to expand this project with Professor Sunitha Nagrath and implement engineering practices to create revolutionary pharmaceutical products that’ll save many lives.

Furthermore, I’d like to further explore my interests within research through the SURE program after my sophomore year of study, where I’ll participate in a summer internship alongside the leading faculty members of the nation. Not only do I get to contribute in creating an abstract booklet, but I'm also promised the opportunity to assess whether I seek to pursue a Masters degree, which is something I’m planning to do.

As work experience is essential in developing a company, the University of Michigan’s Cooperative Education Program provides me with the quintessential opportunity to implement my engineering skills for practical application. Through this program and with the help of the ECRC, I’ll be pursuing my studies while completing tasks from an official industry, which is invaluable experience for an aspiring entrepreneur and acts as the bridge between knowledge gained in class and the work industry.

As such, developing a company requires more than just skills and work experience, it calls for leadership and entrepreneurial skills. Therefore, the Entrepreneurs Leadership Program (ELP), unique to the University of Michigan, is the perfect program to enhance those skills. Through the 3-credit courses, internships at growing start-ups, opportunities to shadow as an entrepreneurial leader or begin a venture, and exclusive access to engaging notable investors and entrepreneurs, this program will help distinguish myself from all the other good entrepreneurs out there.

My dream of developing a pharmaceutical company requires various foundational qualities and skills, and that’s why there’s no suitable place like the University of Michigan, which equips its students with exceptional research opportunities and student programs, encouraging them to pursue their goals and turn their dream into a reality.