**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.

**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.