



## Profile

### Personal Information

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<b>Name</b>	Meng, Alan <i>Fan</i>
<b>Share different name</b>	No
<b>Birthdate</b>	03/09/2004
<b>Pronouns</b>	He/Him
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Nonbinary

### Contact Details

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<b>Email, Phone</b>	afnmeng1@gmail.com, +1.662-341-0234, Mobile, No other telephone
<b>Permanent Address</b>	205 Royal Troon Rd Starkville, MS, 39759-6801, USA

### Demographics

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<b>Sex</b>	Male
<b>Military Status</b>	None
<b>Hispanic or Latino/a/x</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>Asian</b> (China)

### Language

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<b>English</b>	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
<b>Mandarin</b>	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
<b>Russian</b>	Speak, Read, Write
<b>Japanese</b>	Speak
<b>Spanish</b>	Speak, Read, Write

### Geography and Nationality

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<b>Citizenship Status</b>	U.S. citizen or U.S. national
<b>Birthplace</b>	Athens, Georgia, United States of America (17 Years US, Years Non-US)

### CA Fee Waiver

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**Fee Waiver  
Requested**

No

# Family

## Household

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**Parents** Married  
**Home** Both Parents

## Parent 1

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### Mother

**Name** Dr. Yanbing Tang  
**Email, Phone** yt125@msstate.edu, +1.662-312-9623, Mobile  
**Occupation** College administrator/staff, Employed, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, USA  
**Education** Graduate school  
Masters (2003), Doctorate (2007), **University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA**  
Masters (2000), **Beijing Normal University, Beijing, CHN**  
Bachelors (1997), **Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, Gansu, CHN**

## Parent 2

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### Father

**Name** Dr. Qinming Meng  
**Email, Phone** qm83@msstate.edu, +1.662-312-8049, Mobile  
**Occupation** College teacher, Employed, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, USA  
**Education** Graduate school  
Doctorate (2006), Masters (2005), **University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA**  
Doctorate (2001), **Peking University, Beijing, CHN**  
Masters (1997), **Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, Gansu, CHN**  
Bachelors (1994), **Shandong Normal University, Jinan, Shandong, CHN**

## Siblings

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1. Andrew Meng, Age 13
2. Annie Meng, Age 7

## Education

### Current or Most Recent Secondary School

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Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Columbus, MS, USA, Public, CEEB: 251409 (08/2020 - 05/2022)

**Boarding School** Yes: Living at School

**Other** **Starkville High School, Starkville, MS, USA, Public, CEEB: 252830** (08/2018 - 05/2020)

**Progression** No change in progression

**Graduation Date** 05/2022

### Colleges & Universities

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#### Grades

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**Rank** na / 90

**GPA** 3.3 , Unweighted

### Current or Most Recent Year Courses

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First Semester	Second Semester
LANG - <b>Russian II</b> - (N/A)	LANG - <b>Russian II</b> - (N/A)
HIST - <b>ModEurHistory</b> - (N/A)	HIST - <b>ModEurHistory</b> - (N/A)
OTH/ELE - <b>College Career Readiness</b> - (N/A)	OTH/ELE - <b>College Career Readiness</b> - (N/A)
CALC -	CALC - <b>AP calculus II</b> - (AP)
ENG -	ENG - <b>World Literature</b> - (N/A)
PHYS -	PHYS - <b>WavesElecMag</b> - (N/A)
MATH -	MATH - <b>Logic Theory</b> - (N/A)
SCI - <b>Mechanics</b> - (N/A)	SCI -
HIST - <b>American Govt</b> - (N/A)	HIST -
ENG - <b>Southern Writers</b> - (N/A)	ENG -

### Honors

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<b>3rd place National History Day State Competition Individual Documentary</b>	State/Regional, National	10
<b>2nd place state competition MMTA difficult class 1</b>	State/Regional	9
<b>Scholarship to Music Camp at Mississippi College</b>	State/Regional	9

## Future Plans

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Foreign service worker (including diplomat), Doctorate

## Testing

There are no test scores to report.

## Activities

### Debate/Speech

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9, 10	I competed in state competitions as individual., National
School	Speech and Debate Association
7 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr	I competed in mainly congress and Lincoln Douglass. I earned no awards.
Continue	

### Research

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9, 10	I competed in state competition, but not national., National
School	History Day
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr	I competed in individual documentary for both years of my participation. In my 9th grade year, I did not place. In my 10th grade year I got 3rd place.

### Music: Instrumental

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9	I played the piano, Mississippi Music Teachers Association
Year	I got 2nd place in state competition in difficult class 1. I was 2nd place in getting scholarship to Music Camp at Mississippi College.
6 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr	

### Other Club/Activity

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10	Member, Starkville Mayor's Youth Council
School	I participated in weekly meetings. I did around 15 hours of community service during my position in Starkville Mayor's Youth Council.
2 hr/wk, 24 wk/yr	

# Writing

## Personal Essay

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**Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?**

Imagine completing classwork assignments at the speed of light to be able to play video games for the rest of the class period. That was 7th grade. Of all the games I could've played, I chose Minecraft. It has LAN which allows you to play with others if they are connected to the same Wi-Fi as you. LAN lets you create servers that any student from the school could join.

On cheats-enabled servers, I was far more skilled at using the cheats than everyone else. Because of that, I was able to beat cheat enabled servers out of popularity. In many cases, I killed all players on the server with just 34 keystrokes using cheats. I got my skills from my research from online forums which I did in my own free time. Looking back on it, I conclude that finding out about how to use the cheats myself would require just as much intelligence and innate talent, but it would require a lot more time. This is because cheats consist of a pattern of keystrokes- that would look like a nonsense group of numbers and words.

Servers that disabled cheats were harder to disrupt. However, there was one exploit that was very powerful. The exploit was to log-in to a server with the same name as someone else. This would kick the other player out of the server and give the account to the exploiter, but the server would send 2 messages indicating its use. The exploit was almost never used after the first few weeks of discovery as many students went on to play other computer games. I personally feared that students would stop playing Minecraft if they were targeted repeatedly.

A player that seemingly couldn't be targeted was named Rain. When someone would attempt to exploit him, the server would act as if Rain's username was not taken. At first, I believed that Rain had bought an account which would reserve a spot on every server. Months later, I was bored out staring at Rain's username. I saw that Rain had put a tiny space character before his username. So I tried exploiting him with 1 space character in front. It worked and I got his account.

Another time, I reflected on how players reacted to the 2 messages from the use of the exploit. I noticed that players would react as if the username became someone else's. All actions committed under that username weren't taken as evidence against the player but rather an exploiter. So, I decided to use the exploit in a new way. I opened 2 Minecraft users on a single computer - both were logged in my name. One was used to exploit the other. The server sent the same 2 messages. With the messages, I was able to excuse any of my actions on the server. Chaos ensued across the classroom. The other players start trying to find the culprit. It was funny as they didn't consider me. However, I quickly stopped using it because exploiting victimhood was very unethical to me.

Although I could've used the exploits more, the fact that I discovered them is satisfying enough. In those situations, I used to believe that intelligence and innate ability are crucial to discovery. At the time, I knew I was talented and that I was the first to discover them. So, I concluded that talent yields discovery. However, as I reflect over these memories, I believe that passion, curiosity, and boredom are far more important. I would've never been as skilled



with cheats without the passion of research. Without boredom, I wouldn't have stared at Rain's username. Without my curiosity of players' reactions, the new way of exploiting wouldn't have been considered. Why other people had not discovered them before is that very few students played Minecraft frequently, and those- who do- mostly focus on a cooperative repetitive playing style.

## Community Disruption

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Covid-19 has caused me to learn in a partially online school for my junior year. In my junior year, I tried many clubs but they did not seem to be fitting to me because online meeting causes lots of awkward silence (which is also why I quit Mayor's Youth Council). When someone seems to struggle to explain something, people cannot intervene because it will cause the meeting to be too chaotic. I end up not staying in any clubs in my junior year. I believe that my time is worth more if I spend studying Spanish, Russian, Japanese, and Chinese. I found out that I like to study them for many hours a day. Covid-19 has also changed my views on Speech and Debate. I learned that an online Debate event would require you to sit at least 5 hours at one time which I would not have liked. With my skills in research and logical thinking from in-person debate competitions, I found fun in debating on comment sections, especially on YouTube. I was also more open-minded to my own flaws as I did not risk losing possibility of prestige in losing a debate in comment sections. Furthermore, I feel that connecting with my MSMS peers is more rewarding and profound than connecting with debaters. Although I can still go back to in-person debate tournaments, I choose not to because I believe that my time can be spent better on research and studying foreign languages rather than debating in person.

## Additional Information

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One of my most favorite extracurricular activities in middle school was the Science Olympiad. In my first Science Olympiad meeting, I met many of my peers that would be accepted to Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science which is Mississippi's only public residential high school for academically gifted students. My peers at Science Olympiad also introduced me to MATHCOUNTS in 6th grade and National History Day in 8th grade. Both of which I joined and enjoyed. I excelled at Science Olympiad tournaments. I placed 3rd in 1 event in the 6th grade state championship. In next year's state championship, I placed 1st in one event and 2nd in another. In my last year, I placed 3rd in 2 events.

I believed that I should have placed higher in my last year because of how easy the 2 events were. Science Olympiad does not give out scores or grading sheets. Therefore, I could not know what I did wrong in the event or if it was a 3-way tie. This prompted me to focus on actual performance rather than prestige or competition because I wanted to see how I really did. This gave me a great mindset because I focused on improving my knowledge in mathematics and science regardless of whether or not I could earn awards for it. This mindset made me study multivariable calculus, number theory, astrophysics, chemistry, molecular biology, and much more in my ninth grade year on my own.

I wanted to be placed in AP calculus BC in ninth grade, but my high school policy did not allow me to do that. Rather than protest, I decided that I wanted to self-study. I practiced on problems online and watched YouTube videos. I even watched some Harvard lectures. Calculus was just the beginning for me. My success in self-studying motivated me to self-study other topics. Although I wanted to take the AP calculus BC exam, I did not know you could take it without taking the class.

Sadly, Science Olympiad and math-related clubs did not exist at my high school because there was a lack of interest. I quit the high school robotics club because I feel like there was too strict of an attendance, and the activities did not seem that I would benefit nor have fun from them. I quit Mayor's Youth Council during the pandemic.

I did not quit National History Day. Instead, I changed my event from an individual website to an individual documentary. I wanted to learn how to make and edit videos. I joined the speech and debate club because I want to practice public speaking, arguing, researching, and memorizing. I also got to socialize with my peers at school and with debaters from other schools. Debate tournaments take place in various schools, so I got to have fun touring different schools.

At MSMS, I joined the Math club for a few weeks in my junior year. Then, I decided to quit because I believed that the lectures moved too slow and were not as thorough as the YouTube videos I watch. In my senior year, I decided to join the VEX Robotics club. I like this Robotics club more than the one at my old high school because VEX looks interesting and fun. I am practicing in the VEX club as a journalist and a builder.

MSMS students neither receive GPA nor class rank. I believe that MSMS made the right choice, especially when MSMS has classes of greatly different difficulty. In my experience, it is better to focus on progress in your own performance than just comparing yourself to others. I believe that giving out class rank even if you also give out grades, would cause many students to choose easy classes rather than the classes that they are interested in or would benefit from.

Career College Readiness is a required class that I have to take to graduate.

# Education Progression

## Education progression details

No change in progression

## Required Explanation

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### Secondary school change

I knew about MSMS (Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science) from my friends in Science Olympiad back in 6th grade. I wanted to go to a better high school. I believe that MSMS had more rigorous classes. SHS (Starkville High School) did not have the foreign language classes that I wanted. I wanted to learn Russian because I think the language sounds pretty, and I like the Russian alphabet. SHS only had Spanish and French. I did not like Spanish nor French as much because the words all sounded the same to me. SHS also did not have the math classes that I wanted. SHS provided only calculus AB and BC after precalculus. I knew that they were not as beneficial to me because I studied calculus in my leisure time. I believed that the math classes that would benefit me are ones about number theory because I did not study those as extensively. However, the math teacher that taught the math classes I wanted left halfway during my stay at MSMS, but I decide to stay at MSMS because I like it here. I also wanted to live away from my parents to prepare myself to live independently. Living away from my family helps me with studying because I usually access the study rooms in the Mississippi University for Women library. Even the dormitories provide better studying conditions that anywhere in my house. MSMS dormitories provides adequate living conditions and staff.

# Harvard University Questions

## General

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<b>Preferred start term</b>	Fall 2022
<b>Admission plan</b>	Restrictive Early Action
<b>Preferred residence</b>	On Campus
<b>Financial aid</b>	Yes
<b>Do you intend to submit supplementary materials?</b>	Yes
<b>Consider testing?</b>	I have submitted or will submit SAT or ACT scores, and would like them to be considered as part of my application

## Academics

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<b>What academic program at Harvard interests you?</b>	Humanities
<b>Specific field(s) of study</b>	Government, Statistics, Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Studies of
<b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your academic plans to be?</b>	2
<b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your vocational plans to be?</b>	2
<b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite are your extracurricular and/or athletic interests?</b>	2

**Are you applying for the dual degree program with the New England Conservatory?** No

**Are you applying for the dual degree program with Berklee College of Music?** No

**Online Coursework** Yes

**Online Coursework Provider/Institution /Organization** National Institute of Health Office of Intramural Training and Education

**Online Coursework Provider/Institution /Organization** Just The Beginning A Pipeline Organization

**Online Coursework Digital Certificate URL** [https://jtbapo-my.sharepoint.com/personal/asmith\\_jtb\\_org/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fasmith%5Fjtb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FJTB%2FPrograms%2F](https://jtbapo-my.sharepoint.com/personal/asmith_jtb_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fasmith%5Fjtb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FJTB%2FPrograms%2F)

### **Additional Intellectual Experiences**

From June 1st, 2021 to August 6, 2021, I participated in a unpaid internship at MSU Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering with Bo Tang, PhD. I controlled small submarine and learned machine learning using Python with packages. I wrote my own code to train machine learning models to classify emotions. When I was done with my project, I wanted to code a new model to fix Inertial Measurement Unit readings collected by the submarine. However, the data never arrived, but I did start to write code for it. Although I liked some of programming, I realized that fixing bugs and rereading code was not something that I would like to do. I still program as a hobby, but I wouldn't like to do it as a job. My internship has also taught me to be patient, how to read manuals and think more logically, and self-learning complex topics.

## **Activities**

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**Activity 1** Sailing

**Intended level of participation (sports)** Club/Intramural/Recreational

**Activity 2** Debate

**Intended level of participation (sports)** Club/Intramural/Recreational

### **EC Essay**

I participated in Speech and Debate club at Starkville High School from August 2018 to November 2019. I participated at around 20 tournaments. During the time I participated, I focused on Speech and Debate the most out of all of my extracurricular activities. When I participated in my tournaments, I socialize often with my peers and friends from both inside and outside of my school. My competitors thought that I was a strong opponent and deserved to win a award in many of the events I participated in. I predicted that my chance to win at least one award in each tournament was around 50%. I evaluated and reflected on every judges' comments of my

performance. However, I won no awards. I continued to participate because debate helped me connect with accomplished students and to conduct research for long discussions. I eventually quit because of financial reasons.

## Contacts

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<b>Have you previously applied to Harvard?</b>	No
<b>How have you learned about Harvard?</b>	Social Media
<b>Additional contact</b>	Website

## Family

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<b>Parent different address</b>	No
<b>Is parent 1 living?</b>	Yes
<b>Parent 1 Birth Country</b>	China
<b>Parent 1 Occupation</b>	College administrator/staff
<b>Parent 1 Employment status</b>	Employed
<b>Parent 1 Position/Title</b>	Associate Director of Research and Applied Science
<b>Parent 1 Current employer</b>	Mississippi State University
<b>Is parent 2 living?</b>	Yes
<b>Parent 2 Birth Country</b>	China
<b>Parent 2 Occupation</b>	College teacher
<b>Parent 2 Employment status</b>	Employed
<b>Parent 2 Position/Title</b>	Associate Professor, GIS
<b>Parent 2 Current employer</b>	Mississippi State University
<b>Number of siblings</b>	2
<b>Sibling 1 Education level</b>	Some grade/primary school level

**Sibling 2 Education level** Some grade/primary school level

## Other Information

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**Please list the cities, states and countries where you have lived, with years of residence.** Starkville, MS, USA, 08/2012-current

**Additional location and date if applicable** Albany, NY, USA, 07/2010-08/2012

**Additional location and date if applicable** Charlotte, NC, USA, 07/2008-07/2010

**Additional location and date if applicable** Athens, GA, USA, 03/2004-07/2008

## Writing

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**Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution?** Yes

### **School discipline explanation**

Fall of 2020. I went onto Zoom. There was a glitch on my Zoom that said that the host is in another meeting when he was not. The glitch would also refuse to let you join unless you exit out of the zoom. After around 15 minutes of waiting for the host, I was notified that I got an unexcused absence.

9/29/2021. I missed mandatory field trip because I mistakenly thought that my 3rd period teacher said that the field trip was on October 1, 2021. As I was leaving for 4th period, the field trip bus passed me. No one came to notify me that the bus was my field trip bus, even though the teacher in the bus knew that it was me and the bus was stopping for traffic. I could not tell if the bus was the field trip bus because the windows were slightly tinted. After finding out that my 4th period classroom was empty, I went to the front desk of Frazer. After questioning the staff, I learned that the field trip's announcement was intercom to the wrong building and the bus that passed me was the field trip bus. I told the staff about my situation. I was going to tell her that my required uniform for the field trip was in my backpack. (I only need to put it over my clothes to be in uniform.) However, the staff threatened me with writing a verbal abuse violation before I could tell her.

Have you ever            No  
been convicted of,  
or pled guilty or no  
contest to, any  
felony or  
misdemeanor?

## Students Applying From Outside The US & Canada

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Applying from            No  
outside US/Canada

## Affirmations

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By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here:  
<http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.