**OSU: Geography**

**Use the space at the right to compose a statement of academic and career objectives. Please be as specific as possible about your proposed focus of study. You should address your motivations for graduate study and briefly explain your overall preparation to enter your chosen field. Please refer to the web site of the academic program to which you are applying to see if additional instructions have been provided**

**Identify and enter any concentrations, subfields or tracks of study that are of interest to you. Please refer to the academic program's website for this information if needed. If your proposed program does not provide a list of concentrations, subfields or tracks, please leave this question blank.**

**Briefly describe (a) your experience conducting research and (b) your research interests for the Geography graduate program.**

**Briefly describe (a) experiences in which you exercised leadership, and (b) what you have learned from these leadership experiences.**

**Briefly describe (a) your dominant characteristics, and (b) your ability to persevere in challenging circumstances.**

**(a) your dominant characteristics**

**(b) your ability to persevere in challenging circumstances.**

**Describe any actions, projects, or outcomes of your work that have contributed to a more diverse and inclusive society. This can include outreach and community service.**

**OSU Geography**

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**You should address your motivations for graduate study**

My motivation for applying to graduate school is to hopefully become a Professor leading a research group with a focus on utilizing technology advances in the field of geography and earth sciences.

As an undergraduate student I gained a position as a student athlete tutor for the OSU Athletics Department

I am currently working as a Software Engineer at Nike in their logistics

Motivations

* MS, PhD
* Professor
  + Teach and Research
  + Lab Group
* Motivations
  + Love of academia and learning
  + Bring AI and ML to Geography and Earth Sciences
* Involvement
  + Peers, Faculty
  + Conferences

**Briefly explain your overall preparation to enter your chosen field.**

* Research Experience
* Education MS, MBA
* Software Engineer
* CEAOS Courses
* TFDD Work

1. **Identify and enter any concentrations, subfields or tracks of study that are of interest to you. Please refer to the academic program's website for this information if needed. If your proposed program does not provide a list of concentrations, subfields or tracks, please leave this question blank.**

1. **Briefly describe (a) your experience conducting research and (b) your research interests for the Geography graduate program.**

The first area of research I have been involved in includes completing a master’s degree in Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University. My research involved developing algorithms for radiation detection and then using this research to develop a software application. I was involved with literature reviews, lab based data collection, statistical analysis and software design. The research was funded by the Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission and also led to me being nominated for an ARCS Fellowship by faculty members and co-authoring a grant which we received.

Recently I have been working with research in the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database which a program in the OSU [College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences](https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/). My role in this has been helping with large scale data collection utilizing Python. I am not helping set this program up with faculty and students who will be running it as we gather data.

1. **Briefly describe (a) experiences in which you exercised leadership, and (b) what you have learned from these leadership experiences.**
2. **experiences in which you exercised leadership**

I have been able to gain leadership experience both academically and professionally. As a graduate student in the College of Engineering I worked as a Teaching Assistant. During this time I was asked by faculty to design and teach a radiation based physics course. Since then I have been able to teach a number of courses at both OSU and LBCC.

Professionally, I have been able to gain leadership experience at OSU and Amazon. At OSU I have worked in the Office of the Dean of Students and the Division of Student Affairs helping to supervise a team of around twelve undergraduate and graduate student workers. At Amazon I helped found a new team and was asked to take ownership of onboarding new digital security campaigns. Our platform handled all security for Amazon and Amazon partners like Ring and Twitch. I worked with Amazon leadership and seven teams that supported this platform.

1. **what you have learned from these leadership experiences.**

I have been fortunate to learn a lot from these leadership experiences. One important thing I have learned is how valuable relationships are. In leadership roles I work to develop strong relationships where I am able to provide support and care to those I work with. As an instructor I often taught two hour courses and worked hard to find ways to engage and connect with the students. In my role in the Office of the Dean of Students I worked at the Basic Needs Center to provide support to at risk and struggling students. This was a profound experience for me and really helped me grow in empathy for those around me. I love helping others and have found when in any role I get a lot of joy from the ability to provide support and care for those around me. From these positions I have learned a lot of skills that I believe would help me be successful in the OSU Geography program. These include organization, communication and problem solving skills.

1. **Briefly describe (a) your dominant characteristics, and (b) your ability to persevere in challenging circumstances.**
2. **your dominant characteristics**

I have found myself the most happy while in graduate school and I really love academia. I think this love stems from my personal characteristics which I believe include being kind, patient and curious about the world around me with a strong desire to learn. As an Instructor at LBCC, the Dean of Education wrote in my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.”

As a graduate student in the [College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences](https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/) at OSU my goal would be to be an active member of the academic community, making friends connecting with faculty and hopefully having time to have fun.

**(b) your ability to persevere in challenging circumstances.**

I believe I have a strong ability to persevere in challenging circumstances. I have gained a master’s degree while teaching and completing a challenging thesis. I also have gained my MBA while working at OSU as a graduate assistant. In my most recent roles at both Amazon and Nike I was faced with very challenging circumstances working on massive, complicated platforms with a tremendous learning curve. Some ways I have learned to do well in challenging circumstances is to make sure I take care of myself and always set aside time to work out, play sports and spend time with friends. I also utilize strong time management skills and focus on productivity when I work rather than spending hours of low quality time with little output. I feel working as a software engineer has helped me learn how to work faster and smarter.

1. **Describe any actions, projects, or outcomes of your work that have contributed to a more diverse and inclusive society. This can include outreach and community service.**

    I have been fortunate to have been involved in a number of both personal and professional experiences that have helped me grow as a person and also contribute to a more diverse and inclusive society. I also believe these formative experiences utilizing personal relationships and data to drive change will help me as a graduate student and hopefully in the future as a professor leading a research group.

    As an undergraduate student I was fortunate to be selected as a Legacy Health System scholar which led to an internship in their Supply Chain. In this role I worked with the Director of the Supply Chain to create a plan to attract and retain more minority owned vendors. I utilized data to understand their current supply chain and then spent time in the community learning from minority business owners about the struggles and challenges they faced. I utilized this combined knowledge of personal experience and data to put together a plan to make it easier for minority owned businesses to partner with Legacy Health System which created the foundation for what they use today.

    Most recently I have worked in the Division of Student Affairs as a Resource Advocate with the Basic Needs Center. In this role I worked directly with the local community, staff, faculty and students leading and supporting a number of our programs. I led our Food Assistance Program where I processed around 1,200 need-based applications per term. My work included reading through at risk applications and then providing additional support and resources for students struggling from small to very large and complex issues. I utilized this knowledge to help these students and learned a lot of skills that will help me as a TA or instructor.

While my roles in Student Affairs and as an instructor have allowed me to foster an environment that values diversity, I have also discovered the power of data and technology as tools that are quite effective in understanding issues and advocating for change. While working in the Division of Student Affairs I was asked by the Dean of Student Life to analyze demographic data at the Career Development Center. I was able to utilize Python and Java to gather and analyze almost five years of past data that allowed us to see what student groups were not being supported as fully as they should. I wrote multiple reports from this data that were used by leadership at the Career Development Center and the Division of Student Affairs. I also utilized this data to work with leadership at the Career Development Center to found an Advisory Committee with business partners from companies like HP, Target and the United Way.

    My professional and personal background has provided me experience in creating an inclusive and caring environment for students, staff, faculty and members of the community. As an Instructor, the Dean of Education wrote in my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” I feel that developing relationships and being kind and caring can help tremendously in creating an environment that values diversity. As an instructor, I loved seeing the nervous quietness of the first week being replaced with warmth and support as the students got to know me, other students and my desire for them to learn and succeed. It would be my goal to bring this same energy and community building to this role.

    I firmly believe that education can transform individuals, create more equitable environments and build up entire communities. My goal in this role would be to