

[1 20pts] Introduce yourself and your connection to computing. You can go **BIG** or go *specific* such as how do you think about computing and yourself as a **CAREER** or go *specific* and discuss your connections to computing in everyday life such as playing a specific video game (which you understand is a computer program), etc. If you use the above examples you will need to provide more details (5-7 sentences instead of 3-5)!

My name is Derin Gezgin. I'm a freshman. My story with computing started with the first Arduino course I took when I was in the middle school. At that time, it was all about connecting the LED to the right place in the breadboard, wiring it and writing a simple code to activate it. It wasn't much but it was enough to amaze me and make me wonder more about technology, programming and creating new projects.

In the high-school I was lucky to be accepted in a government organized course on technology and I was able to learn about many different areas of technology such as design, app programming, software development, robotics etc. At that course, I met with C++. With the boredom of the pandemic era and a great teacher I learned basics of it and completed simple assignments. This experience was a key-point in my programming journey.

Until the December of my senior year, I took a break to learn programming. After being accepted to the college, I started to learn Python with a Udemy course. I learned the Python basics and some advanced fun stuff. I created some projects by myself which I can use to impress my friends and also ease my daily life. After this course, I started to learn C++ again to remember the basics of it and also go further.

Right now, I'm in college where I've more time and resources to explore and practice different areas of programming. In these 4 years I'm planning to double major in "Computer Science" and "Data Science and Statistics". I'm planning to create many personal side projects to practice the knowledge I learned in the class. Also, I'm looking forward to explore further concepts of computing by reading or making researches about certain areas.

[2 20 pts] From your reading of the syllabus course description, what are you most interesting in exploring in this course and why?

At the moment that I read the syllabus; I was very excited to see that we're going to do projects as a part of the class. Even I love to learn the theoretical part of the Computer Science, I'm also interested in making projects with the knowledge I learned in the class. Plus, when I read that I will choose the project topic on my own interests I became very excited and thought about topics that I can work on as a project.

Topic wise, I'm so curious about learning different algorithm types. I think that learning how to work with them would be crucial in my future projects.

[3 20 pts] From your reading of the syllabus course objectives, what are you most interested in mastering?

I'd like to master in Data Structures and also Algorithms which both are fundamentals in data science and most of the CS jobs today. Also, I think that visualization is a very important aspect in programming because it's the bridge between a programmer and an end-user. I think that making the output easily understandable to any user is a very important skill for a programmer.

[4 20 pts] From your current perspective, what area of computing or technology excites you in a positive way?

In my opinion, the easiness to access information is very impressive. Rather than going to a library and looking for a book for hours or looking for an encyclopedia to find a specific information, anyone can access and search about the topics they're curious about.

On the other hand, the amazing fact that anyone can learn how to code creates a collaborative environment for everyone which speeds up the advancements made in the technology. This excites me because I can collaborate with anyone around the world on a similar project and work on it together.

[5 20 pts] From your current perspective, what area of computing is most frightening or anxiety inducing?

For me, the fact that computers started to learn by themselves is very scary. It's very possible that at one-point computers will not need us and if we can't manage the situation correctly it can end in a really catastrophic result.