Profile

Personal Information

Name	Zhao, Jeffrey
Sex, Birthdate	Male, 10/08/1999

Contact Details

Email, Phone	jezhao1999@gmail.com, +1.519-988-6820, Home, +1.519-300-9051, Mobile
Permanent Address	4645 Jenkela Crt WINDSOR, ON, N9G 3C4, CAN

Demographics

Religion	None
Military Status	None
Hispanic or Latino	**No**
Race	**Asian** (China)

Language

English	Speak, Read, Write
Chinese	First Language, Speak, Spoken at Home

Geography & Citizenship

Citizenship Status	Other (Non-US)
Birthplace	Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada (9 Years US, 7 Years Non-US)
Other Citizenships	Canada
US Visa	I do not hold a currently valid U.S. non-immigrant Visa Issued:

CA Fee Waiver

Fee Waiver Requested	No

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Both Parents

Parent 1

Mother

Name	Ms. Karen K Liao
Birthplace	China
Address	the same as my home address
Occupation	Accountant or actuary, Accounting, QM Plastics, Employed
Education	Graduated from college/university Associates (2015), **St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology, Windsor, ON, CAN**

Parent 2

Father

Name	Mr. David Zhao
Address	the same as my home address
Occupation	Engineer, Unemployed
Education	Graduated from college/university Masters (1998), Bachelors (1985), **Shanghai Jiao Tong University, CHN**

Siblings

1. Jayden Zhao, Brother, Some grade/primary school

Education

Current or Most Recent School

Vincent Massey Secondary School, WINDSOR, ON, CAN, Public, CEEB: 826975 (09/2012 -)

Counselor	Mr. Dan Gray, Guidance Counselor
Email, Phone	dan.gray@publicboard.ca, +1.519-969-2530x31011
Interruption	did or will graduate early

Other Colleges & Universities

Grades

Rank	na / 450

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

First Semester	Second Semester
CALCULUS & VECTORS ENRICHED - (AP)	**CALCULUS & VECTORS ENRICHED** - (AP)
ADVANCED FUNCTIONS ENRICHED - (AP)	**ADVANCED FUNCTIONS ENRICHED** - (AP)
BIOLOGY ENRICHED AP - (AP)	**ENGLISH**
PHYSICS ENRICHED AP - (AP)	**CHEMISTRY ENRICHED**

Honors

Canadian Computing Olympiad, Bronze Medal	National	11
Vincent Massey Secondary School Honour Roll	School	9, 10, 11
Canadian Open Mathematics Contest Honour Roll	State/Regional	11
Photonics Puzzle Silver, McMaster Science Olympics 2015	National	12
AIME Qualifier (AMC 12A Score: 99)	National	11

Future Plans

Computer programmer or analyst, Doctorate

Testing

SAT

Critical Reading	800	10/03/2015
Math	770	10/03/2015
Writing	790	10/03/2015
Taken	1	
Planned	0	

SAT Subject Tests

Math Level 2	800	11/2015
Physics	800	12/2015

Activities

Computer/Technology

10, 11, 12

Year

4 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr

Continue

Leader, Vincent Massey Computer Science Club

Taught classes and organized contests. Prepared members for the Canadian Computing Competition.

Science/Math

10, 11, 12

School

1 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr

Continue

Senior Member, VMSS Science Olympiad Club

Silver, Photonic Puzzle, McMaster Science Olympics (2013-2015). Silver, Windsor Science Olympics (2015). Guelph Science Olympics (2014).

Computer/Technology

11, 12

Year

5 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr

Continue

TopCoder SRM Contestant

Competitive programming website. Top Rating: 1464. Username: descrip

Academic

10, 11

School

4 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr

Continue

Student, Windsor Math Enrichment Program

Studied mathematics under Dr. J. Bruce White at the University of Windsor.

Computer/Technology

11, 12

Year

5 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr

Continue

Codeforces Contestant

Competitive programming website. Top Rating: 1727. Username: descrip

Computer/Technology

10, 11, 12

School, Break, Year

5 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr

Continue

USACO Platinum Contestant

Competitive programming, US high school students. Highest level, international student.

Academic

9, 10, 11, 12

School

1 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr

Continue

Mathematics Contestant

Wrote Euclid, CSIMC, COMC, AMC, AIME, ARML, etc.

Debate/Speech

10, 11

School

3 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr

Continue

Member, Vincent Massey Debate Club

Participated at Richard Peddie High School Debate Invitational (2014-2015). Participated in Vincent Massey Invitational Debate (2015).

Academic

9, 10

School

5 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr

Tutor, Vincent Massey Learning Centre

Tutored many struggling grade nine or ten students in all subjects.

Writing

Personal Essay

The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

From Zero to Sixty

"Five minutes left!" the proctor yelled, sending me into an adrenaline-fueled state of panic. In a flurry of keystrokes, I appended a few more lines of code and recompiled, desperately trying to earn a few more points. It was futile; I had nothing to show for the four hour competition.

For months, I had lived and breathed computer science. Thousands of hours were logged into competitive programming websites as I relentlessly honed my algorithmic problem solving skills. They say that, in order to truly understand a subject, one must teach it; in the footsteps of that adage, I became the leader of my high school's computer science club, a position that required me to teach other students through weekly lectures. Just minutes before the competition, my head was buried in reference books, voraciously reviewing the algorithms and data structures I had at my disposal.

The hard work did not pay off. In the first round of the Canadian Computing Olympiad (CCO), out of a possible seventy-five points, I had earned almost none. Zero. Zilch.

Competitors were released from the contest room to the stifling summer weather. Most students headed for the cafeteria to catch a lunch; I wasn't feeling exactly famished. The first place of refuge after adversity is bed, but, since the CCO was far away from home, I had to settle for an unfamiliar dormitory cot. Lying on my back, I replayed the events in my head, again and again. What had gone wrong? My mind scrambled for an answer.

I slumbered soundly the night before, so sleep was not the issue. I had a hearty breakfast—a bowl of cornflakes and some scrambled eggs—and I was too preoccupied with reviewing to feel nervous before the competition. Was there some trick to the questions, a hidden bug to find? No; I was no tyro when it came to competitive programming. I had to be one of the top twenty high school computer scientists in Canada to just earn an invitation to the CCO.

The sound of footsteps passed by the dormitory, as I heard other competitors discuss how straightforward the problems were for them. They laughed, sucker punching my barely breathing ego. While I had struggled for a measly score, they had found the competition straightforward. Maybe the problems were only hard for me. Maybe all of those hours that I had spent practicing were squandered. Maybe computer science was not the field for me. Maybe—

No. The last thing I wanted was for my subconcious to turn against me. I started to reason with myself.

Competitive programming is a fickle sport. Contestants code in the dark, with few indications of the validity of their algorithms or the integrity of their code. Just one keystroke, one overlooked bug, and a program will always output the wrong answer, even though the programmer may have had the right ideas.

With that in mind, I reevaluated my performance, turning off the part of my brain that had desperately searched for a reason in my failure. Was it possible that there was none? There were no proverbs to be uttered here, no life lessons to be learned from this failure other than to dust the dirt off of my pants and to keep on trying. Besides, the CCO was a two round competition. There was more to come, and I had to be ready for it.

I slumbered soundly that night, waking up to a hearty breakfast of cornflakes and scrambled eggs. Just minutes before the second round, my head was buried in reference books, voraciously reviewing the algorithms and data

structures I had at my disposal, too preoccupied to feel nervous.

The hard work paid off. In the second round of the Canadian Computing Olympiad (CCO), out of a possible seventy-five points, I walked home with sixty.

Discipline & School Interruption

Education Interruption

did or will graduate early

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action?

No

Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime?

No

Required Explanation

Education Interruption

I skipped grade six, moving from grade five to seven, when attending Lexington Junior High (Lexington, OH, US) due to my academic achievement.

Princeton University Member Page

General

Preferred start term	Preferred: Fall 2016
Admission plan	Regular Decision
School Specific Fee Waivers	Not applying for Princeton Specific Fee Waiver
Financial aid	Yes
To submit an optional art supplement, please see: https://puwebp.princeton.edu/UA-Art-Web/. Do you plan to submit one to Princeton University?	No
Please choose a four-digit PIN	9624

Academics

Which degree would you most likely pursue at Princeton? Your choice is not binding in any way:	B.S.E.
In which program of study do you think you would like to major at Princeton? Your choice is not binding in any way:	BSE Computer Science

BSE Engineering

Programming in Bed

The spring of my sophomore year was frigid—the last snowfall was in April—and I spent most of it in bed, in the sultry subclimate under my blankets. It was here where I would finish math worksheets, craft literature essays, and change the course of my life.

This is the letter "e". How do we know that a squiggle forms "e"? How do our minds distinguish "e" from similarly shaped letters like "c" or "o"? The brain's ability to read glyphs is one that we take for granted, and I sought to answer those questions by emulating it on my computer, in the form of an optical character recognition (OCR) program.

It was not a simple task. Under those blankets, I spent weeks sieving through academic papers on machine learning and scouring example programs, slowly appending polished lines of code to the program. By April, I could show it an image of a road sign or a newspaper article, and it would be able to read the embedded text with a paramount 93% accuracy.

An OCR program is nothing special in the market; a google search returns dozens of OCR software for purchase. But, for a thirteen year old who worked in bed and had only five months of programming experience, it showed me how much I could accomplish with just a laptop and an internet connection. If, like Frankenstein, I could teach a computer how to read, what could I do if I studied more computer science?

I started to do exactly that. I joined the ranks of Topcoder and Codeforces, tirelessly honing my skills in computer science through competitive programming. I became the leader of my high school's computer science club, a position that requires me to train other students in computer science. I was one of the top twenty performing high school students on the Canadian Computing Competition (CCC 2015), which earned me an invitation to the Canadian Computing Olympiad (CCO 2015).

Through it all, I developed a love for this field, and a desire to continue studying it and to create with it. To satisfy that desire, I would like to pursue a major in computer science, at Princeton University, an institution renowned for its strength in the applied sciences and the expertise of its faculty.

In which second program of study do you think you would like to major at Princeton? Your choice is not binding in any way:	Mathematics
In addition to the major you noted above, please indicate which certificate program might interest you:	Applied and Computational Mathematics
In addition to the major you noted above, please indicate which second choice certificate program might interest you:	Applications of Computing

Contacts

Previously applied	No

Family

Sibling applied	No
Family:	No

Relative employed at member	No