

# Statement of Purpose

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One of the most important questions one can ask themselves in life is, 'what do I find fulfilling?' For me, the answer is problem solving. Solving complicated problems in an elegant and efficient manner is one of the most satisfying things in life I have found.

That is why I have chosen to study Mathematics and Computer Science, whose very foundations are built on problem solving. My greatest interest is to study and research cutting-edge technologies for ciphers and cybersecurity, which lie directly at the intersection of Math and Computer Science. With a strong background in both subjects, I feel that I can bring a broader perspective to my research.

I have paid my own way in life since I started attending Williston State College at age 16. My parents make enough money to prevent me from receiving financial aid, but not enough for them to help me pay for my school. I have worked summer internships for up to 100 hours a week, had jobs while taking up to 20 credits in a semester, and found every opportunity I could to make my dreams a reality.

I am currently working 2 jobs for a total of around 40 hours per week, while taking 16 credits and acting as co-lead of the software development team for Advanced Rocketry Club on campus. The NYIT REU program would be an exciting research opportunity for the summer where I could cut down on my responsibilities in order to focus exclusively on research and learning of topics I am fascinated with.

My career goals are to graduate with a double major and research experience, work in my field to learn real-world applications and provide service to society, and eventually return to graduate school and become a professor at a university so I can continue to pursue my passion for cybersecurity and research, as well as help other students reach their full potential.