### How will the Booth MBA help you achieve your immediate and long-term post-MBA career goals? (250-word minimum)

At 18, I sat in the lobby of a psychiatry clinic and watched as firefighters entered the building and escorted my dad to be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution. Healthcare professionals said that commitment was our only option. Years earlier, my dad suffered a series of mini-strokes that damaged critical areas of his brain, leaving him with a severe personality disorder. I felt helpless to fix my dad's situation. Having witnessed the pain my family endured due to my father's condition, I feel deeply that no one should ever have to experience such hardship. I am determined to develop groundbreaking medical technologies to alleviate the suffering of those affected by neurological conditions and deliver those technologies at scale.

Before joining Dexcom, I struggled to see how a computer scientist could improve people's health. However, I learned to use my skills to improve the health of people with diabetes. I built a platform to increase company engagement with millions of users worldwide, bringing more people to our life-saving therapies. For a time, I led my team of developers to realize my product manager's vision. Now, I want to become the person that defines the vision. I will use the Booth MBA to transition to the product manager role in healthcare, leveraging my technical background to increase my effectiveness in developing new medical technologies. The experience I will gain as a product manager in bringing new healthcare technologies to market will prepare me to start a venture that addresses the challenges those struggling with neurological conditions face.

As I was reviewing my MBA options, I was intrigued to learn that Booth started offering the Healthcare concentration in September 2023. I've had the Booth MBA on my radar ever since my brother-in-law, Justin Wilson, started the part-time program several years ago. At one point, I visited Chicago, and Justin took me to explore the Booth campus and attend an admissions event. What impressed me the most about the Booth MBA was its flexible curriculum, analytical-focused learning, culture of thoughtful debate, and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Still, I couldn't see myself—a software engineer in MedTech—at Booth because it had limited healthcare-related offerings. Now that Booth has a Healthcare concentration, I can use the Booth MBA to pair my technical background with product innovation and entrepreneurship to make a real difference in healthcare.

I have deep conceptual computer science knowledge and experience developing software products, but to succeed as a product manager and later an entrepreneur in healthcare, I need both general business knowledge and practical experience in the entire product lifecycle. At Booth, I'm most excited to get involved in the deep tech innovation ecosystem by participating in the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Participation in the Center will give me the holistic experience I lack. I'm particularly interested in the Polsky Center's track record of applying computer science expertise to develop new medical devices and technologies, as this fusion of disciplines in the innovation domain matches my ambition and is a unique offering among business schools.

Given my goals, several of the Booth MBA curricular offerings are enticing to me. In the Entrepreneurship in Health/Life Sciences course, I will gain the commercial, financial, and operational tools needed to succeed as a product manager and later entrepreneur. My time at Dexcom showed me that regulation often leads people into procedural ruts, thus stymieing innovation. In the Power and Influence course, I will learn how to be a leader who can persuade people to overcome procedural barriers. As a member of the Healthcare Group, I will network with healthcare companies and industry professionals to land a position post-MBA.

My personal experiences and professional journey drive me to make an impact in healthcare, particularly for those affected by neurological conditions. The Booth MBA's flexible curriculum, new Healthcare concentration, and entrepreneurship offerings provide the perfect environment for me to transition into healthcare product management. The Booth MBA will equip me to ultimately start a venture that can alleviate medical suffering on a broader scale.

### An MBA is as much about personal growth as it is about professional development. In addition to sharing your experience and goals in terms of career, we’d like to learn more about you outside of work. Use this opportunity to tell us something about who you are. (250-word minimum)

I am a tactile, hands-on person, and I like to figure out how stuff works by taking things apart, repairing them, and putting them back together. When my wife and I moved from school in Utah to my first job in Arizona, we had to furnish our apartment. Being a broke, newlywed couple, every dollar we could save counted. We visited a furniture retailer, and I found an excellent leather couch in the clearance section. The retailer listed the couch for $600, or 90% off the regular retail price. It turns out that the retailer discounted the couch so heavily because the recliners wouldn’t work, and they couldn’t fix it. I was confident I could fix the couch, but my wife was not enthusiastic about buying a broken couch. I persuaded my wife to be ok with the purchase by emphasizing that we could tolerate the financial risk because the bargain was so great and by explaining that no other couch available at even twice the listed retail price would be anywhere near as high quality. When the couch arrived at our apartment, I took the couch apart to diagnose the problem. Thankfully, I could fix the problem without much hassle and became a recliner expert in the process. Now, every time I sit on this couch, I take a little pride in knowing that I got a $6,000 couch at a steal of a price. In fact, I’m sitting on that couch as I write this essay.

As mentioned briefly in my first essay, my dad suffers from severe mental health and personality disorders, which ultimately led to my parent’s divorce and my dad living on welfare. Over the last several years, my older brother has begun exhibiting similar symptoms and consequently has not been able to hold a steady job. Since March of this year, my brother hasn’t had employment or appropriate medical care. Since my mother and stepfather left to serve a mission in Ecuador last year and won’t return until later this year, I am the only family member living nearby to support him while he gains employment. One of the biggest challenges I’ve faced in supporting my brother is figuring out how to offer help without enabling co-dependent behavior. To understand how to accomplish this best, I sought guidance from my grandfather, and he offered this counsel: being nice is not necessarily the same thing as being kind. My grandfather meant that I could be nice by unconditionally giving ongoing financial support to my brother. However, in doing so, I would be putting my brother at a long-term disadvantage. To be kind, I needed to help my brother improve, regardless of whether my brother would perceive that as rudeness. So, I decided to implement a system where I would pay for my brother’s groceries and other necessities on condition that he submit a specified number of job applications each week. Then, to disincentivize gaming my system, I instituted a rule that any item beyond absolute necessities would only be provided conditional on him getting job interviews each week. For example, I would buy him eggs if he submitted enough applications, and he would get some Kombucha if he had a job interview. By instituting this system with my brother, I’ve helped teach him the basic principles of job searching, and I’ve learned that I want to help people and help them be better. My recent experiences with my brother have helped me reaffirm my commitment to develop and distribute neurological technologies at scale so that I can help those who have been affected by these disorders.