# What matters most to you and why?

## First draft

When I was 18, I sat in the lobby of a psychiatry clinic. I watched as the fire department entered the building and escorted my dad out of the building to be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution for in-patient treatment. A week earlier, my mom and I moved in with my grandparents to separate from dad. One day, he came to my grandparent's house, demanding to speak with my mother. My mother feeling unsafe, got in the car and drove away, leaving me in the care of my grandparents. My dad stalked my mom all over town until she found refuge at her therapists office. A couple days later and after drama settled down, my parents agreed to meet with a psychiatrist in hopes to come to a resolution. I drove my mom to the appointment, which landed me waiting in that lobby. The psychiatrist determined that he was a threat to me and my mom, and hence needed to be committed. The next day, I left to serve a two-year ecclesiastical mission in North Carolina--completely separated from my family.  
  
I can't fault my dad for consciously causing this situation. Many years earlier, he suffered a series of mini-strokes that damaged critical areas of his brain, taking away his "executive function" and leaving him with symptoms consistent with borderline personality disorder. Needless to say, my childhood was difficult. At about 15-years-old, I decided I wanted my life to be different and education was my path out. I poured all the negative energy I felt at home into my learning and excelled quite well--all the way through my undergrad program. As I grew and matured, my understanding of my life mission matured: I will build the life for my family that my father never did. I want to build the character that my father lacked, and I want to provide for my family the way my father never did. As I build that life, I want to bring others with me, lifting them to better circumstances.   
  
One of the ways I plan to lift others to better circumstances is by improving health outcomes. If I can be a leader that alleviates the suffering caused by medical conditions, then I will consider part of my life mission fulfilled. For a long time, I couldn't see how to do that given my STEM-heavy computer science background. But when I joined Dexcom I learned that I could use my technical ability to improve health outcomes of a different group: people with diabetes. At Dexcom, I built a platform to send marketing communications to populations of our users to increase engagement and bring more people to our life-improving therapies. Along the way, I coordinated closely with product management, and, for a time, led my team of developers; my product manager set the vision, and I led my team to materialize that vision, innovating along the way. Now, I want to become the person that determines the vision.   
  
Product management is the next step on my journey to improve health outcomes. I will use my technical experience to increase my power to define an innovative vision and coordinate with all the stakeholders involved in bringing products to market. Ultimately, I plan to start a venture that delivers a life-improving therapy at scale. However, considering that I have no previous venture-sized entrepreneurship experience or first-hand experience of the capital-raising process, I don't feel prepared to tackle such a big goal right away. Product management will give me industry and general business experience needed to prepare me for the entrepreneurship journey. Stanford will put me in an ecosystem where I will gain that first-hand experience I lack.

## After Grammarly check

When I was 18, I sat in the lobby of a psychiatry clinic. I watched as the fire department entered the building and escorted my dad out of the building to be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution for inpatient treatment. My mom and I moved in with my grandparents a week earlier to separate from my dad. One day, he came to my grandparent's house, demanding to speak with my mother. My mother, feeling unsafe, got in the car and drove away, leaving me in the care of my grandparents. My dad stalked my mom all over town until she found refuge at her therapist's office. A couple of days later, and after the drama settled down, my parents agreed to meet with a psychiatrist in hopes of coming to a resolution. I drove my mom to the appointment, which landed me waiting in that lobby. The psychiatrist determined that he was a threat to me and my mom, and hence needed to be committed. The next day, I left my family to serve a two-year ecclesiastical mission in North Carolina.

I can't fault my dad for consciously causing this situation. Many years earlier, he suffered a series of mini-strokes that damaged critical areas of his brain, taking away his "executive function" and leaving him with symptoms consistent with borderline personality disorder. Needless to say, my childhood was difficult. At about 15 years old, I decided I wanted my life to be different, and education was my path. I poured all the negative energy I felt at home into my learning and excelled. As I grew and matured, my understanding of my life mission matured: I will build a life for my family that my father never did. I want to develop the character that my father lacked and provide for my family the way my father never did. As I build that life, I want to bring others with me, lifting them to better circumstances.

# Why Stanford?

## First draft

In April 2023, I attended a conference at Stanford for current and prospective MBA students from my church. The conference was held in a meeting room in the Stanford hospital, and one of the conference speakers was Stanford Hospital CEO David Entwistle. David described the operation of the hospital, emphasizing the hospital's focus on incorporating the most cutting-edge, innovative technologies to improve patient care. David's speech helped me see that Stanford is the place where I can begin to realize my goal of improving health outcomes by leading the charge of innovating medical technology.   
  
Later on at that same conference, the conference attendees went to an Oakland A's baseball game for a networking event. At the event, I felt like a fish out of water. I came from a different background than many of the current Stanford MBA students and didn't have a similar demeanor. I sat down to take a break from the networking and watch the game. Unprovoked, a current student--Nathan Fewel, class of 2024--sat down next to me and struck up conversation. As a prospective student, I offered no professional advantage to Nathan, so I assume he was genuinely interested in engaging with others, regardless of any potential for personal benefit. As we talked, we bonded in more than the traditional pleasantries sense. Nathan had a military background, and as we talked, I got the sense that Stanford is a place that thrives on a student body with diverse backgrounds. Nathan helped me see that I want to be part of the Stanford MBA community.  
  
(Go on to discuss Stanford offerings and how I will contribute)

* Programs
* Classes
* Alumni network
* Stanford community

Why should we include you in the exclusive ranks of Stanford alum?

## After Grammarly check

One of the ways I plan to lift others to better circumstances is by improving health outcomes. For a long time, I couldn’t see how to use my STEM-heavy computer science expertise to achieve that goal. However, when I joined Dexcom, I learned that I could use my technical ability to improve the health outcomes of a particular population: people with diabetes. At Dexcom, I built a software platform to increase company engagement with our global base of millions of users and bring more people to our life-saving therapies. Along the way, I coordinated closely with product management and, for a time, led my team of developers; my product manager set the vision, and I led my team to materialize that vision, innovating along the way. Now, I want to become the person that determines the vision. My vision is to use my computer science expertise to find ways to reduce the suffering of individuals dealing with neurological conditions by developing innovative medical technologies and then deliver those technologies at-scale. (need a sentence here linking to my dad)

Product management is the next step on my journey to improve health outcomes. I will use my technical experience to more effectively develop innovative products and coordinate with all the stakeholders involved in bringing products to market. As a product manager, I will gain critical general business experience and prepare to ultimately start my venture to deliver neurological condition therapies. However, considering I have no venture-sized entrepreneurship experience or first-hand experience in the capital-raising process, I need to prepare more before tackling such a big goal. Product management will give me the industry and general business experience to prepare me for entrepreneurship. Stanford will put me in an ecosystem where I will gain the first-hand experience I lack.

In April 2023, I attended a conference at Stanford for current and prospective MBA students from my church, hosted in a meeting room at the Stanford Hospital, and one of the conference speakers was Stanford Hospital CEO David Entwistle. David described the hospital's operation, emphasizing the hospital's focus on incorporating the most cutting-edge, innovative technologies to improve patient care. David's speech helped me see that Stanford is where I can begin to realize my goal of improving health outcomes by leading the charge of innovating medical technology.

Later, at that same conference, attendees went to an Oakland A's baseball game for a networking event. While I enjoyed networking with current Stanford MBA students, I couldn’t help feeling like a fish out of water. I came from a less common background and didn't have a similar demeanor. I sat down to take a break from the networking and watch the game. Unprovoked, a current student--Nathan Fewel, class of 2024--sat beside me and struck up a conversation. As a prospective student, I offered no professional advantage to Nathan, so I assume he was genuinely interested in engaging with others, regardless of any potential for personal benefit. Nathan had a military background, and as we spoke, I got the feeling that Stanford is a place that thrives on a student body with diverse backgrounds. Nathan helped me see that I want to be part of the Stanford MBA community.

(Other stuff here)