**Michigan Ross MBA Essay Responses**

**What is your short-term career goal, and how will Ross help you achieve it? (200 words)**

My goal is to become a Product Manager at a technology company, leading teams and introducing new features and capabilities to an organization. I am beginning to take on management roles in my current job and I aim to grow my technical and project management skillsets so I can more effectively lead teams. As a Product Manager, it is important for me to understand both the complexity of what is happening behind the scenes, but also be able to effectively communicate across the business in a simple manner. Ross’s MBA program focuses on real experiences and collaboration, both of which will provide an environment where I can contribute and learn. Ross demonstrates commitment to its students by prioritizing programs such as the Multidisciplinary Action Project course. This focus on exploratory learning is exactly what I'm seeking in an MBA program and Ross offers a challenging but comprehensive curriculum that will provide me with the knowledge I need to succeed in my new role. I am confident in Ross’s ability to help me achieve my career goals due to Ross’s reputation, academic resources, and career network.

**At Michigan Ross, we believe the best way to learn is by doing. In our Full-Time MBA Program, you will put your skills and knowledge to the test in real-world situations with real stakes. How will this learning environment benefit you, and how do you plan to contribute to the action-based learning experience? (300 words)**

I am a firm believer in that knowing what you do not want to do is just as powerful as knowing what you do want to pursue. I originally thought I wanted to be an Accountant, only to discover I needed more team collaboration and creative thinking. This led me to my current role in Consulting. I have grown as a consultant and learned valuable skillsets but realized that I want to pursue technology-based roles. None of this exploration would be possible without learning by doing. Ross’s commitment to real world experience will ensure that I gain not the right experience, but the one that brings me closer to my goals.

An MBA is more than an accreditation to educational efforts, it is also an experience that is shaped by the people around me. I want to surround myself with people that challenge me, encourage me, and can teach me something unexpected. During my time in Consulting, I have seen what it means to have powerful female leaders and the impact it has when you do not see yourself reflected in the room. Ross empowers women in business and technology with its extracurriculars and programs, such as the Michigan Business Women and Michigan Women Investment Group. I know I can make an impact to this community and encourage other women to achieve their goals at Ross and in their professional careers. Ross is the right fit of both educational challenge and community focused experiences for me. I will bring my past experiences, perspectives, shortcomings, and a desire to learn from the faculty and leaders in the Ross community.

**Michigan Ross is proud to support a community of leaders and impact makers. As a future member of this community, we want to know more about who you are and what drives you. Please choose 1 of the following prompts to tell us more about what makes you stand out beyond your academic and work experience. List the prompt you are answering at the top of your response. (200 words). Describe about a time you made a difference in your community.**

In my first year of college, I joined a non-profit organization called H.E.R.O for Children that I have been involved with ever since. H.E.R.Os is focused on improving the quality of life for children in Georgia impacted by HIV and AIDS.

I began learning about the children’s experiences and the importance of our programs. It was not long before I knew I wanted to dedicate myself to this cause. In Spring 2020, I was elected as the Fundraising Lead. Shortly after I was appointed, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and we depended primarily on in-person fundraising efforts. As the Fundraising Lead, I was faced with a real challenge of raising enough money to continue the funding for our programs for the year.

Despite all the challenges we faced in switching to virtual fundraising efforts, I led the organization to raise over $200,000. I am so proud of the impact we created and that we were able to maintain the programs for the kids. While I am no longer the Fundraising Lead, I stay up to date with the organization and ensure I donate every year to continue making a difference in their lives.