Things that I need to think about / include

Activites:

* Make a Change Advertising?
* Sigma Phi Delta
* Re-look at my resume and see what I can include in this activities
* Should I add my Stylist app side project as a Activity

What academic program within IIT am I applying to?

I have interests in computer science, AI, fashion, creative writing, business administration, product design, and data analytics.

Research IIT program and specify what program that I want to apply to

Academic Plans?

* Career Interests
* Highest Degree

**Tell us why you are pursuing your selected major:**

**Computer Science**

I have found my passion and deep seeded interest in Computer Science somewhat late and by chance in my academic journey so far. I was first exposed to and took my first ever computer science class in highschool, but at the time I was really turned off by it and didn’t think that it would be for me. The word that came to mind at the time was that the subject was “stale” but I have come to find that it is anything but.

One of the major reasons why I gravitate to CS is the “creation” aspect of it. There is something about turning an idea into reality that makes me salivate about potential opportunities and makes me think about how I can combine all the tools I have at my disposal to create something that could potentially change the world. It may sound cliche, but it really is the truth in a lot of ways. Much like a painter with his paintbrush, all I need is time, ideas, and a computer to make a masterpiece, whether that be my fashion app that I am building or taking existing data about Chicago for example and gaining new insight about the city. Going hand in hand with this, the impact, reachability, and versatility of the field is what also attaches me to it. I view it as being analogous to a “jack of all trades” but in the sense that later down the line I can go into any field and have an immediate impact regardless if it something that I am really knowledgeable in. What I mean by this is that I can go into the medical field and make a program that helps regulate a patient's breathing or conversely go into personal finance and help people do their taxes. Computer science gives me the flexibility to explore other avenues other than the one that I am studying and working in.

One specific example that solidified computer science in my mind for me was with the Towers of Hanoi. I remember playing this game that was based off the concept at a young age at school, and it was my favorite “puzzle” because I could not find an obvious answer to solve with. With such a clear object and simple rules, it took me a lot of tinkering and days to figure out how to exactly move even a three block set to the other side. That “thinkering” is what I have found I live for, and to finally come across a solution and the feeling of elation it gave me is what made it all worthwhile. Many, many years later, I find myself doing the exact same problem in college as a challenge problem me and my friends were having for fun. In the underlying crevices of my mind, I remembered that I have seen something very similar to this before but I couldn’t quite get my finger on it. However working through the problem in code inspiration eventually flooded through and once I got the program to work I realized it was the same thing that I did when I was a child, but only now I was really able to wrap my head around it and understand it at the most fundamental level. But to get to that point

The creative yet logical mindset one must adopt to succeed in the field is yet another aspect of computer science that draws me towards it. To me it's about using every weapon in your arsenal in ways you haven’t seen before, to make another weapon no one has been before.

With that I absolutely love the fact that computer science has the power to reach potentially millions of people very quickly and have a powerful and direct impact in people’s lives. I grew up in an age where everyone has a computer and a smartphone and I’ve seen how technology has fundamentally shaped society as it is today and the creative ways people have been using it to network, start a business, or literally whatever else it may be.

I find that this above all is what draws me towards computer science. Not the fact it is the hot new thing on the block for a while now, not the fact that people deem it as a field where one could build a solid career from it, but for that fact that it has real impact.

On a more personal level, another feature of computer science that makes it the field I want to study is the vetirully never ending nature of it. This is something that I can continue to do for the rest of my life and there are always ways to be improving and learning new things. Also giving the tech industry and the space, new products and newer ideas are coming out basically every day which not only excites me at the possibilities, but the wonder of it all and how technology will continue to be innovated. I want to be in the middle of that.

I’ve been talking to a lot of people who are in the space

In the industry creativity and collaboration is valued and essential in the workplace. I really like that type of environment and feel like that is the most representative of my personality and where I would like to be later in life.

Lastly, the reason why I want to pursue computer science is because of the low barrier of access to it. Even outside the classroom, by taking up projects that I am passionate about and talking to those in the space, I can always be doing something cool, always learning. This is important to me because what I want out of life is a sense of freedom and doing what I love. Once again, all I need is time, ideas, and a computer to make dreams come true.

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I love the fact that CS is a never ending field, and that this is something that I can continue to do for the rest of my life and constantly be improving and learning new things.

I like the fact that CS is something that I can always pursue on the side, and it is not something that is restricted to just the classroom. While in other subjects

There are a multitude of resources that make it possible to me dive deeper into the subject and its application

Innovation is at the core of this world and technology.

Another aspect of computer science that draws me to the field is that impact, reachability, and versatility of it. Growing up the modern age, I’ve seen the way computers and

With computer science, I can go into any field and have a direct impact in it. For example, if down the line I wanted to go into finance, medicine, and even education

I’ve been talking to a lot of people who are in the space

In the industry creativity and collaboration is valued and essential in the workplace. I really like that type of environment and feel like that is the most representative of my personality and where I would like to be later in life.

There is always something new to learn and things that you can add to your skillset. I especially like that because there is no “end” to computer science from

I like the problem solving and creative yet logical approach you take when viewing the world and how one can use that mindset in solving problems.

One example that I can think of is with the Towers of Hanoi. I remember playing this game that was based off the concept at a young age at school, and it was my favorite “puzzle” because I could not find an obvious answer to solve with. With such a clear object and simple rules, it took me a lot of tinkering and days to figure out how to exactly move even a three block set to the other side. That “thinkering” is what I have found I live for, and to finally come across a solution and the feeling of elation it gave me is what made it all worthwhile. Many, many years later, I find myself doing the exact same problem in highschool

Taking those minute details and reconstructing them is what made me realise that I really like doing this, and the fact that I can adapt and reuse this mindset when solving other problems in my life made it so that I was able to make things more efficient and

Overall, the reason why I am pursuing Computer Science is for the all the reasons stated above: the intellectual stimulation, versatility, scale, impact, creative yet logical mindset, and being able to show a product or body of work that you created that solves a real world problem, however small, and for the all important feeling of “I made that” is what will draw me to the field for a very long time, if not forever.

Six things:

Innovation

You can do anything/ the reach that it has. Potentially reach millions of people

At the job place, creativity is valued

At the job place, collaboration is key

There is always something new coming out and opportunities to grow and add to your skill set

Impact on people’s lives

Towers of Hanoi

**Why are you interested in IIT?**

**Optional: Share an essay on any topic of your choice.**

I want to take the time to explain how I got to the position that I am in today and a general overview of my situation. Hopefully this will shed some light as to some of the things one will see on my transcript, why I am applying for transfer, and my plan moving forward.

I went to the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign straight out of high school in the Fall of 2018. Entering a brand new world was definitely a challenge but surprisingly the adjustment to a new living situation and newer faces wasn’t that bad and I got acclimated quickly. Classes were going alright and I felt that I was able to learn and accomplish everything that I needed to do while discovering campus, meeting friends, and finding my organizations.

However a few weeks into college I began to experience mental health issues that significantly impacted my ability to perform academically, socialize, and even live life in a happy and productive way. I began to suffer from severe depression, loss of appetite, memory loss, difficulty focusing, a fading sense of control over myself along with a whole host of other symptoms. Out of nowhere I was becoming unstable and more and more “dead” by the day and I can distinctly remember staring out of my dorm room window for hours not being able to get out of bed. I have never experienced something like this before and definitely shook me to my core.

A week later, I began to feel better and got back on track. At the time I did not think much of it because it passed and I was back to new and working again and being early into the semester I was able to recover and keep up with my work. Alas, this did not last long as I was hit with another wave of depressive emotions and volatility but this time it was even more pronounced. I could not understand or explain why I was feeling the way that I did but I knew I could not go on like this for long. The pressure of school was ramping up and I did not want to lose the focus and momentum that I worked hard to maintain. I went to the counseling center and explained how I was feeling. Three days later I was admitted to OSF hospital in Champaign for a mental health retreat. They deemed that my situation was dire enough where I needed immediate intervention and a break from what I was doing.

During my stay at the hospital, I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was given a couple of medications to help me with my conditions. My diagnoses did help explain the nature of and why I was feeling so low so suddenly and came with some short lived relief.

Fast forwarding I came out of the hospital feeling a little better but because I had missed so much class time, not to mention quizzes and assignments, I felt that it would have been best to withdraw from some of my classes to not feel overwhelmed. I barely got out in time to make up a missed exam but unfortunately only had a day to prepare. I was hospitalized during a critical time of the semester and the situation was far from ideal.

That is exactly what I did for Calculus 1 and I retook it the following Spring ‘19 semester. I was considering a major change to Music Technology during this time which is why I took some music classes along with my engineering requirements. Spring semester was far worse than my first semester. I physically and mentally could not go over my depressive episode and my manic episodes, although mild compared to my depressive episodes, made it very difficult to focus and made me speraatic and impulsive. At times I would completely forgo class to explore Champaign and come back later in the day with no idea why I did that.

I did have a therapist and psychiatrist with me on campus helping me out during these tough times. During the better part of spring semester, me and my psychiatrist cycled through a couple of different medications until we found the one that worked and I have been on ever since. The medications before this that we tried would make me feel at ease for about a week, but then would just stop working for whatever reason as I was hit with episode after episode.

My second semester things did not get any better and continued to spiral out of control. I felt as though everyday was an uphill battle and I was being bogged down by negative emotions, suicidal thoughts, and erratic behavior.

I ended up getting the worst grades I have ever gotten in life at that point during that spring semester. The overwhelming reason was because I was experiencing something that I had no real way to deal with, but the more subtle reason that I was not properly taking care of myself. I really had no idea what was going on or what I was doing. To be honest, I was just going through the motions and hoping it will go away without executing any dedicated actions aside from taking my medications. I thought that I was going through a “phase” and did not give the situation the proper attention that it deserved.

My friends, counselor, therapist, and pysicarits, all recommended that I take a medical withdrawal or a semester break because of how poorly my spring semester went and how I was feeling. After the year ended, I went back home in Chicago for the summer. Being back home made me a lot better and I did not have any majors episodes the entire time. From time to time I would feel sad or a little elated but this time I was able to slow down and not let it get to me. Because of how good I was feeling during the summer, I went back to school in the fall thinking that things were cured and I was back to normal. I was wrong.

At first things were kicking off very well and I was feeling great for the beginning part of the term. Classes were going well. I was focused and being very productive and being in control, everything was going fine. However, the same issues that I was experiencing came back like a boomerang.

Slowly, I would feel myself spiking and dropping dramatically and pretty soon I was on the same destructive path that plagued me my first year. To make matters worse, the psychiatrist and therapist that I had access to last year were not available to me anymore. My psychiatrists I was seeing had retired and to make matters worse, I was unable to see a new one because I had to register as a new patient. This was a major problem for me because this Fall’20 semester the school had a lack of psychiatrists, only two for the whole school. I was unable to schedule an appointment with either due to them being booked to capacity every time I called.

I also ran out of medication a month in and did not have any refills to count on. So for the better part of Fall ‘19, I went without my medication and no one to turn to write a prescription for more.

This was also the semester I learned that my parents were undergoing significant financial hardships, mostly due to them sacrificing a lot for me to be at UIUC in the first place. I had the constant worry of parents not being able to afford the rent for my apartment and other necessities in order for me to be there.

All spiraled downward I went into the same defeating depressive thoughts and manic outbreaks that made it unable for me to succeed and be stable. In my overconfidence, due to me feeling good in summer, I signed up for more classes then I could have realistically handled and was bogged down by too many credit hours and tight schedule. For three days out of the week I did not end class until 7 PM. Life once again became an emotional rollercoaster I could not control.

For both Spring ‘19 and Fall ‘19 semester, I performed below my capability and due to my exterminating circumstances, the dean of my college retroactively withdrew the classes that was affected the most. This is the reason why there is a grade of “W” for a lot of the classes you see there.

The reason why I did not take a semester break or medical withdrawal, and why I signed up for too many classes is that I did not want to fall behind. I had already had to make up a significant amount of credit hours from my first semester, and then even more during my second semester. This meant that I had not complete a full semester and

I know that I am intelligent, hard working, and accomplished. I have demonstrated during the short lived times of stability that I had that I am more than capable to not only maintain, but succeed and go above and beyond with multiple aced assessments in a row and great work.

The fall semester ended very similarly to last spring, with a very bad spot mentally and emotionally but with added stress from finances and life. I thought that I had gotten better and could not believe that I was going through the same things that led me down this road.

After coming to my senses, I finally took this semester off to focus on my well being and it has been a very positive experience. I think that it was the right thing to do because I was able to slow down and analyze things of what they are and figure out what the next best course of action will be. I should have done this far sooner and have suffered the consequences because of it. I have been taking the time to seriously build a support system in place that will allow me to be stable and move forward. I have done this by seeing a psychiatrist every two weeks, getting the right medication, and having regular check ups with my therapist. The sessions that I have with my therapist have been especially helpful because it is a time that I can unwind and formulate strategies to deal with stress and get the most of the day. I have achieved a sort of mental clarity and confidence from doing so that I did not know I had and it has helped me tremendously. I have noticed that due to me feeling depressed and having erratic thoughts and behavior, that it would affect my academics and my life, which would only add to my depressed feelings and make the situation worse. It was a cycle that I would involuntarily add to and make the situation worse. I am here now to end that cycle.

I also took this time by supporting my family financially, learn about myself and the world, and really put myself in position for the rest of my life.

Taking this time off was the single best decision I have made so far in college. I should have taken the recommendation far earlier and I would have been in a much better spot and mentially and in terms of my academics. I did not heed this advice sooner due to a level of immaturity, overconfidence, and not wanting to fall behind. I felt as though I needed to “stay on track” and taking time off would significantly impact and prolong my ability to do so.

I have been stable at home and haven't had any real volatile episodes for a while now and achieved a mental clarity that I did not have in college. I am now on the path to build upon the foundation I have built. One of the very first things that I did once coming back home was see a new psychirts and get the medications that I needed. I also have been two classes at Truman community college and have been using the resources there to see a therapist every week, and I continue to do so even though the coronavirus situation is happening. These two, along with the valuable support of my friends and parents have been paramount in first staying afloat and succeeded. I can say that I have successfully rebounded mentally and emotionally from the dark times that I was in and have been making significant strides to a happier and healthier me. I have been making progress every day and formulating a solid plan for the future that I will execute.

Even though I have struggled in college in all aspects and performed no where near my capability, I have been resistant and motivated to bounce back and work even harder to get myself back up to where I was.

At the end of the day, even though UIUC was a great school and I enjoyed my time there, I feel like that it may not have been the best for me, emotionally and financially.

I originally went to UIUC because of the financial aid packet that they gave me, but my parents were still paying for my housing costs and other expenses. During my first year, it was doable and I was able to go about without much worry, but at the start of my sophomore year things took a turn for the worse and I had a lot of stress of whether or not I was going to be able to pay for rent every month, have food in my mouth every day, and being able to enjoy the little things with my friends.

With the newly unprecedented coronavirus situation, things have gotten significantly worse as both of my parents are out of work until the virus eases. I have been supporting my parents for my own money for the past few months and predict that this will continue to be the case for a significant amount of time. This is why I feel like now it is even more imperative that I am able to stay close to home to not only support my family, but for my emotional well being as well. I plan on staying close to my parents to continue to support them.

I feel like after my trials at UIUC, I am now in a better place and have a solid foundation to be able to work my way up again and grow from this point onward.

I failed to set up the necessary support structure and put things in place that would allow me to be stable and successful. I failed to seek out the essential help that I needed to maintain my mental health and medication. I failed to take action sooner and ensure my wellbeing and my success.

I am now determined to not make the same mistakes and ensure that this does not happen again.

I am now constructing the necessary support structure and have put things in place to have a sense of stability. I am stable and prepared to make the next steps in my journey.

I have been historically an excellent student with a strong work ethic and drive to succeed. I have done very well in highschool and

Need to talk about how I am capable and was successful in the past, but due to extremulating circumstances/ bipolar conditions, I was not able to do so.

I have been a