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Goal Statement – Masters of Science in Analytics

All through my life, as far as I can remember, I was always numerically inclined and possessed a natural aptitude for analytical thinking. It started with mathematics and physics competition in grammar school, exceling in math and related classes in high school, and continued through studying Business Administration with specialization in Finance as my major at university and extending my curiosity into the grad school field of financial engineering while doing my undergraduate studies. However, it wasn't until I started engaging in the "real" world experience through my internship and later full time position that I truly realized that my passion and skills lie in combining data driven analysis and decision making with business strategies. In order to pursuit this path, I find Harrisburg University Masters in Analytics program crucial factor in my future.

Since the beginning I have been in the finance industry. I started interning for a high frequency trading firm in Chicago and later moved to a foreign currency broker in New York. For the last two years I had a chance to work in different parts of the business that exposed me to variety of circumstances where analytical thinking and data driven strategies were crucial for business success. I started from more technology side in Quality Assurance Analyst role where I was first introduced to databases and SQL, moved to Financial Analyst role where I had an opportunity to combine my analytical background with newly acquired database knowledge, and later moved to compliance where I was on a daily basis analyzing data to support different business strategies pertaining to regulatory matters and improving business processes to assure adherence to laws and regulations.

When I first stepped into the role of Financial Analyst was when I got an opportunity to take charge and fix an important issue for the firm that has been dragging along for a long time. Besides my other responsibilities, my daily task was profit and loss reconciliation. This is an extremely important task for any company, even more trading firm where things happen at the speed of light and processes are prone to mistakes that can have great impact on the bottom line. I soon came to realize that the internal P&L and reconciliation process had a number of deficiencies. The issue started from data integrity to incorrect reference data to calculation itself. Once I identified issues through data analysis I kicked off the project, compiled the plan and solution, and through team work with individual responsible for database and developers, we have resolved the issues. This project greatly impacted the strategic decision making and ultimately the confidence of traders knowing that now they can daily rely on accurate data.

Through my work I realized the ever growing volume of structured and unstructured data available nowadays and the importance of it in almost any part of the business or stage of the projects I work on. I also realized my limitations in capturing insights with skills I currently poses and opportunities that lie ahead in understanding the trading data and customer information and being able to utilize it effectively and strategically to add value to the company I work for. Harrisburg University can give me the necessary tools to grow in my current role and one day in the future form a business unit with the company that will specialize in business intelligence and provide data driven analysis on different type of projects.