

1. Why do you want to study your chosen major specifically at Georgia Tech?

At the age of 13, while most kids were simply playing video games, I was diving into the code behind them. Frustrated by bugs in a soccer game, FIFA, I embarked on a mission to fix them. This wasn't just a child's fleeting interest; it was the spark of a passion that would define my academic and professional journey. Much like my early endeavors in game coding, my approach to challenges has always been hands-on and solution-oriented. Whether co-founding the AI Club at Rockland Community College or mentoring young minds in robotics, I've consistently sought to bridge theory with practical application. My academic accolades, from the Dean's List to the Rising Legend Award, are not just symbols of excellence but milestones in a journey marked by innovation, leadership, and resilience. Georgia Tech, with its emphasis on real-world AI applications and interdisciplinary research, offers the perfect platform for students like me who thrive on innovation. The AI Hub, the Machine Learning Center, and the esteemed faculty are just a few facets of Georgia Tech's comprehensive AI ecosystem. My interactions with alumni and my visit to the campus further solidified my belief that Georgia Tech's blend of academic rigor, industry collaborations, and community engagement is unparalleled. Just as my 13-year-old self was driven by a desire to improve a game, my current aspirations are fueled by a passion to push the boundaries of AI and computer science. I see Georgia Tech as the arena where my foundational skills, honed through diverse experiences, will be amplified and refined. Here, I aim to not just learn but to innovate, contribute, and redefine the landscape of technology.

Pixels. Each one, a tiny spark of curiosity. My first pixel lit up at age 13, not in a classroom, but in front of a flickering computer screen displaying a FIFA game. A bug disrupted my match, and instead of shrugging it off, I found myself diving into lines of code, debugging until the early hours of the morning. That single pixel had found its place on the canvas. Fast forward to Rockland Community College, where I stood before a room full of skeptical faces as I pitched the idea of an AI Club. Weeks later, those same faces were my team, huddled around computers, debugging lines of code for an AI-driven attendance system. Each meeting, each project, each challenge was another pixel, and my canvas began to take shape. Now, I see Georgia Tech as a high-definition display, a place where each student's canvas merges into a grand masterpiece of innovation and collaboration. I can already picture myself in the labs at the AI Hub, where the lines between academia and real-world applications blur. I imagine the thrill of seeing my algorithms come to life in a robot, or perhaps in a healthcare app that could change lives. Each success, each failure, each late-night coding session would be another pixel, enriching not just my canvas but contributing to Georgia Tech's ever-expanding mural of innovation. So, why Georgia Tech? Because here, my canvas can become part of something much larger. I'm not just adding pixels; I'm helping create a masterpiece that has the power to change the world.

2. Georgia Tech's Strategic Plan outlines [nine distinct Institute values](#). Select one from the drop-down list below and discuss how your past experiences have prepared you to contribute to our community. (We celebrate collaboration)

In a world where many aim to stand out, I found my strength in blending in, not to be lost, but to unite. Picture a mosaic, where individual tiles come together to create a masterpiece. Each tile, unique in its color and texture, contributes to the bigger picture. That's collaboration for me, and I've been one of those tiles, always eager to be part of a larger, meaningful design. Much like a tile in a mosaic, my journey has been about finding the right fit, contributing my expertise, and valuing the contributions of others. Co-founding the AI Club at Rockland Community College, I didn't just aim to lead; I aimed to collaborate. Our achievements, from the AI vs. human tic-tac-toe game to the computer vision-based attendance system, were the results of collective effort, diverse perspectives, and a shared passion for innovation. This collaborative spirit extended to MIT's MITES Semester, where, with a diverse group, we tackled student burnout through human-centered design. Each experience reinforced my belief in the power of collaboration. Georgia Tech's ethos resonates with my collaborative spirit. The institution's interdisciplinary approach, team-based projects, and emphasis on diversity are not just academic strategies; they are a celebration of collaboration. I am particularly drawn to Georgia Tech's collaborative research initiatives, hackathons, and diverse community, where students from varied backgrounds come together to innovate and solve real-world challenges. It's a place where the mosaic of collaboration is not just appreciated but celebrated. In the grand mosaic of Georgia Tech, I see myself as a vibrant tile, ready to contribute, collaborate, and create. Just as individual tiles in a mosaic come together to form a masterpiece, I believe that my collaborative experiences, combined with Georgia Tech's environment, will lead to innovations that are greater than the sum of their parts. In this interconnected world, I'm eager to be part of Georgia Tech's collaborative masterpiece.

Puzzle Pieces. That's how I see collaboration. During my time at Rockland Community College, I found a missing piece: a way to apply artificial intelligence to real-world problems. So, I co-founded the AI Club. But a puzzle isn't complete with just one piece; it needs many, each unique, each essential. In our first project, we aimed to create an AI vs. human tic-tac-toe game. I could have coded it alone, but instead, we divided tasks. One member optimized algorithms, another designed the user interface, and I integrated these into a cohesive whole. The result? A game far more sophisticated than any of us could have created alone. This wasn't just a win for the club; it was a win for collaboration. Georgia Tech's ethos of celebrating collaboration feels like finding a puzzle box filled with pieces waiting to be connected. The AI Hub, for instance, isn't just a research center; it's a meeting ground for diverse talents. I can already picture myself there, perhaps working with healthcare experts to develop AI-driven diagnostic tools, each of us contributing a piece to a larger, life-saving puzzle. So, why Georgia Tech? Because I've seen firsthand how individual puzzle pieces, when connected, can create something beautiful, functional, and impactful. And at Georgia Tech, I'm not just looking to fit in; I'm looking to be a

part of something that, piece by piece, is working to solve some of the world's most complex puzzles.