**School**: Harvard University

**Prompt**: Did any time elapse between high school and college or have you left any school or college voluntarily for an extended period of time? Please give a detailed explanation.

**Word limit**: Unknown

# Outline

* Gap year
* Venture capital
* Startups
* Recyco

# Version 1

I graduated from high school in December 2019, right before the onset of the pandemic. As I explained in my COVID essay, the US embassy scheduled my visa interview for well after the beginning of classes in September 2020, so I decided to defer and enter Rice University in the fall of 2021.

Right after graduating, I traveled to Neuquén to visit my uncle and cousins. From there I went to Bahía Blanca, where I had the chance to spend a month living with my 102-year-old grandmother.

When I returned to Buenos Aires in February 2020, I received spinal fusion surgery as treatment for my worsening scoliosis condition: 12 of my vertebrae were fused with a titanium rod that reduced flexibility and restricted my movement. During the first month, I recovered from not being able to move at all to slowly being able to get up and walk. I continued recovering over the following 10 months, during which I could not do any strenuous physical activity.

I used the time I had to spend at home to continue developing an app that made it easier for parents in Argentina with children with disabilities to access health services. This app is now used by the founder and soon to be tested by ten families, five doctors, and a small insurance firm. I also started Recyco, a recycling SaaS startup. Big consumer product companies, like Coca-Cola and Nestlé, want to increase the recycled plastic content in their products but lack the empty used packaging required for the recycling process, and their attempts to collect plastic packaging rather than let it go to landfills were failing. We built a software platform that allowed companies to manage their collection efforts digitally. This was paired with a consumer-facing application that made recycling easier by providing instructions, locations of stands, and even a home pick-up system.

Simultaneuously, Recyco was accepted into Rice Ventures, an accelerator program hosted by Rice’s startup club. Through Rice Ventures I met a Marine veteran working on an app connecting veterans to resources they needed but that were not readily available to them. After interviewing other veterans together to learn about their experience, I joined his startup, Rutd, as interim CTO and kickstarted the development of the veteran-facing app and an NGO management dashboard.

Towards the end of 2020, I started working remotely part-time at Romulus Capital, a VC firm based in Boston as a Venture Fellow. The firm’s three partners, as well as most working at the firm, were Harvard alumni. During that time I expanded my knowledge of the US startup ecosystem, as well as what a company's operational and financial lifecycle looks like.

In May 2021 I was promoted at Romulus to a full-time associate. I leveraged my deal management experience to begin sourcing and running due diligence for companies in the Construction Tech and Real Estate Tech.

In July 2021 I moved to Houston and spent 2 weeks living with my uncle and my cousins before starting my studies at Rice.

**Discard Pile**

After initial feedback we realized that not only companies but also consumers could benefit from access to the platform, so we reached out to local governments.