**How did you discover your intellectual and academic interests, and how will you explore them at the University of Pennsylvania? Please respond considering the specific undergraduate school you have selected. (300-450 words)**

**For students applying to the coordinated dual-degree and specialized programs, please answer these questions in regard to your single-degree school choice; your interest in the coordinated dual-degree or specialized program may be addressed through the program-specific essay.**

# Rev. 1

Two years ago, while preparing for the Informatics Olympiads, I came across an article on a text manipulation algorithm for analyzing the DNA sequences of individuals from different species. I was fascinated by the application of this method across disciplines and challenged myself to do the same with the algorithms I was learning. Since that day, I step back at every opportunity and ask myself how what I am studying connects to what I know about computer science and how potential connections may change my understanding of the problem.

In the past few years I have created several programs, but its was through the development of a navigation app for the blind community and a health reimbursement platform for people with disabilities that I developed a passion for applying computer science to health for the benefit of society.

Penn’s research focused on data science presents an incredible opportunity to do this. I want to work alongside the likes of Lyle Ungar, whose new algorithms and techniques for measuring the mental and physical well being I’m very interested in. The department’s research on medical systems is also something I’d like to witness first-hand because of their close work with patients in treatment.

Moreover, I am excited at the idea of working under faculty in the Warren Center for Network & Data Sciences. I believe the work being done there on the fairness of machine learning algorithms will play an important role as these algorithms are implemented more and more widely.

With everything I learn from these opportunities I want to start a company that generates a positive social impact. Penn can provide me with the tools necessary to achieve this through its Entrepreneurship and Innovation specialization.

Beyond the classes that are part of the program, I’d also like to become involved in a startup and participate in the assortment of competitions, like STARTUP Challenge, and showcases at the Wharton school, that Penn offers. I am very interested in the possibility of working full-time on my own project as part of the Summer Venture Award.