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A CV might suggest our path is defined only by successes. And the broader culture of academia might suggest this of graduate students and academics broadly. Here's to correcting that image.

*Partial list of rejections. Does not include opportunities I was too insecure to apply to – shoot your shot!

Degree programs I didn't get into

2018	PhD program in Psychology, Department of Psychology University of Michigan • I was waitlisted so I don't know how it would have actually shaken out. At some point while waiting, I realized my mind was made up already for elsewhere.
2018	MA program in Psychology, Department of Psychology University of British Columbia
2018	PhD program in Psychology, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences PhD program in Cognitive Science, Cognitive Science Program Indiana University Bloomington
2014	Bachelor of Arts, Harvard University
2014	Bachelor of Arts, Yale University

Academic/research experiences I didn't get into

Summer 2016	Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI) Summer Internship Stanford University • I'm a graduate student at Stanford now and often coordinate this program & participate in the program as a mentor!
2014	too many labs to recall, Department of Psychology University of Chicago • I am perpetually thankful Daniel Casasanto decided to take a chance on first-year me.
2013	Science Research Mentoring Program , American Museum of Natural History
2013, 2014	Summer Science Research Program (SSRP) , The Rockefeller University
2013	Teen Reviewers and Critics Summer Program: MAP FREE CITY
2012	National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) , U.S. Department of State
2012	South Korea High School Summer Program, Council on International Educational Exchange
2012?	countless psychology labs in the NYC area • Unfortunately, many labs can't take minors as volunteers for legal reasons.

Publication rejections

*co-first author

Zhang, M. Y.*, Sullivan, J. N.*, Roberts, S. O. (2002) [Peer commentary on “The i-frame and the s-frame: How focusing on individual-level solutions has led behavioral public policy astray,” by N. Chater & G. Loewenstein]. *Behavioral & Brain Sciences*.

Honor & award rejections

As a graduate student

2023 [NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship](#), National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation

2022 [VPGE Research/Teaching Award](#), Asian American Activities Center, Stanford University

2022 [Diversity Dissertation Research Opportunity](#), Stanford University

2022 [Dissertation Research Grant](#), Russell Sage Foundation

2022 [Elizabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Child Psychology Graduate Student Fellowship](#), American Psychological Foundation

2021 [Outstanding Research Award](#), Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

2021 [Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship](#), Stanford University

As an undergraduate student

2018, 2020 [Graduate Research Fellowship Award](#) (x2), National Science Foundation

- An epic all-nighter without any feedback or revisions didn't manage it senior year of undergrad (I would not recommend this). Two years later, listening to unfortunate advice about page margins sunk my chances as a graduate student. I probably learned the most from this failure: trust your gut, good friends will support you in the face of failure, and life does go on.

2017 [Liew Family College Research Grant](#), Career Advancement, The University of Chicago

2017 [Beinecke Scholarship](#)

2017 [Goldwater Scholarship](#)

- Some confusing advice about whether psychology was eligible as a “science” (turns out it was, thanks NSF!) caused me to chicken out on even applying.

2017 PRISM Research Grant, Career Advancement, The University of Chicago

2017 UCISTEM Summer Research Grant, Career Advancement, The University of Chicago

2016 [AASAP/UK Lord Acton Memorial Scholarship](#), Association of American Study Abroad Programmes United Kingdom

2016 Summer Action Grant, Career Advancement, The University of Chicago

2016 [Critical Language Scholarship \(CLS\)](#), U.S. Department of State

2015 Amazon Student Scholarship Program, Amazon

various various clubs and club leadership positions