

# Michael Robichaud

Hard working, creative, intellectually curious applicant hoping to join the MIT Sloan MBA class of 2019.

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Below is my own creative approach to the "Optional Information" section of the application. The content is equivalent to a 500 word essay, outlining how I feel I demonstrate the five evaluation criteria used to build the MIT Sloan community<sup>[1]</sup>.

## Leadership and an ability to inspire others

A favorite quote of mine is from our late President, John F. Kennedy, who said: "Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly." Those words have become a part of my ethos over the years, defining my approach to leadership. Opportunities for me to lead have come in many forms: as a team member, through volunteering and mentorship, and even managing a team of my own directly. In all scenarios, I strive to create an environment that fosters bold ideas and innovative thinking, challenging people to not only push boundaries, but redefine boundaries in realizing their full potential.



## A collaborative spirit and focus on community

When I think back to situations where I have felt most effective or accomplished in my career, they all involve working within a high performing team. I thrive on the energy and stimulation from working with other talented individuals on challenging problems. My ability to empathize helps me break down barriers, cultivate strong relationships, and bring teams and organizations closer together.

## Intellectual curiosity and analytical strength

Three experiences from my childhood helped forge me into who I am today: my first job volunteering at the local library, my first computer, and spending hours buried in encyclopedias and books about science and technology. This combination built a strong work ethic and an insatiable thirst for knowledge into my DNA. I have an innate curiosity that pushes me to seek out new information and understand the world around me.



## Creativity to generate new solutions to existing challenges

After concentrating in Manufacturing for my Mechanical Engineering degree, a mindset of continuous improvement was wired into my brain. It was further amplified working in factories implementing Lean/6Sigma in my first full-time job. I feel fortunate to have gained those skills early in my career, and have been able to bring an eye for optimization to the other industries and job functions I have been a part of since. My belief is that innovation and creativity come in many forms, and it is important to question the status quo.

## Growth in both professional and personal endeavors

I have always found comfort in the discomfort of starting down a new path, be it an ambiguous task at work or a new life goal that I feel will advance me as a person. I try to seek out initiatives that are difficult, balancing them with optimism and energy. My career path has been dynamic and afforded me with tremendous learning opportunities and left me with a diverse skillset. Outside of work, I spend time coding and working on side projects, traveling the world, and becoming a better, wiser version of myself. The ultimate next step, and a dream of mine, is the pursuit of an MBA at MIT Sloan.



Thank you for your time!



Born in Florida, raised in Massachusetts · In my spare time I love to code · One of my biggest passions is travel · Married the love of my life in 2015 · Die hard Patriots fan #tb12 · Love cycling, golfing, and squash · Enjoy cooking and baking · Visited over twenty countries · Built an app for cyclists to facilitate group rides · Got my first computer at four years old · Enjoy hiking and camping · Founded a company with my wife · I read Wikipedia for hours almost every day · Swam in the Charles River once · I have my own SMS bot that helps me keep track of my personal goals · Worked 20-30 hours at my internship during undergrad · Biked 120 miles once · Worked in India for a few weeks · Almost joined the AirForce · Want to leave an impact on the world · Can speak a (very) little bit of French · Seltzer water aficionado · Could once play nearly every brass instrument · My first job was volunteering at the local Library at seven years old · Lived in six states · Heights aren't my favorite thing in the world · A fan of good beer and wine · Versed in data science and computer science · Interested in politics and government · Curious about different cultures · Love a good ham and cheese sandwich · Lifelong learner · Class of 2019 MIT Sloan MBA hopeful