

I want to integrate data science and psychometrics to disrupt the venture capital industry. More quantitative and psychometric insight will help lower investment risk for venture capital firms all over the world and I hope to be a pioneer of this effort by studying and understanding the characteristics of successful startup founders and companies. Syracuse's interdisciplinary curriculum, connections to top tier professionals in the field, and world class faculty put it above many programs in the world. I'm confident that I'll be able to lead the data-driven venture capital industry after going through the rigorous Syracuse MS coursework.

During my undergraduate career, I worked directly with Ikhlal Sidhu; together, we published data science focused work on methodology to measure what makes startup founders more innovative and successful, insights I use during my part-time role as a scout for Sumeru Ventures. I was responsible for scraping and processing data, testing and tuning models, and synthesizing feedback from all stakeholders. Through scraping data sources such as Crunchbase, Pitchbook, and LinkedIn and subsequently building and optimizing our final models, we were able to find the specific features that make a startup founder more successful and presented our work to hundreds of top researchers at IEEE conferences in 2018 and 2019. My research has also been incorporated with organizations such as the Hong Kong Baptist University and a few of the largest companies in the world such as US Bank. During my first few months in MSDS, I hope to find professors and students to work with to further my work.

Since graduating from Berkeley, I've worked full time as a Data Scientist at Mixbook. In the short time I've been at the company, I've revolutionized the approach Mixbook takes to understand their customer base by building a new platform to give the company insight into the voice of the customer. This was done by scraping, categorizing, and visualizing survey data from TrustPilot,

Facebook, and other customer service comment areas. I also built Mixbook's first ever machine learning-driven forecast, using an ensemble of Lasso Regression, Elastic Net, and XGBoost, to predict our supply with an error of <3%, which led to optimizing our supply chain. In addition to my work at Mixbook, I work as an Adjunct Instructor for Data Analytics for UC Berkeley Extension, which has furthered my skills as a Data Scientist. Additionally, I work as the Chief Data Scientist for Silicon Valley in your Pocket, a venture funded startup, where we're working on de-risking startup deal flow through data. Our team has already started disrupting the venture capital industry; an education from Syracuse will help me develop and grow my skills to ensure that I'm successful in reaching my goal. The combination of these positions over the past year have reaffirmed my interest in data science and has invigorated me to completely immerse myself into the subject.

As mentioned, my goal is to disrupt the venture capital industry. Through data science, I strive to answer the question, "What makes a startup founder more innovative and more successful than their competitors?" My work with Silicon Valley in your Pocket has attracted interest from the world's top firms, including Accel Partners and KPMG, indicating that a disruption in the industry is long overdue. What I appreciate and look forward to most in graduate studies is the constant intellectual stimulation, access to knowledge, never-ending culture of paying it forward, and emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration that Syracuse would provide me. I would love the opportunity to continue my education here.