My journey into the world of artificial intelligence began with a simple interaction with Siri on my dad's iPhone—an unexpected spark that ignited a genuine interest. From that moment, I found myself captivated by the possibilities AI held and inspired to understand its workings. This experience wasn't just a tech moment but a personal connection that fueled my desire to explore, learn, and eventually contribute to the field. With excitement and determination, I'm eager to take the next step in my AI journey by pursuing graduate studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—a place known for fostering innovation and pushing the boundaries of computer science research.

I have consistently upheld a 4.0 GPA across all seven semesters, earning a place on the dean's list. Balancing a rigorous course load, often four to six classes per semester, with my professional commitments, I learned the art of efficient time management and unwavering persistence. This journey was not without challenges, but my tenacity allowed me to excel academically without compromising other facets of my life. I believe in the power of proactive engagement with my professors. Regular communication with them has kept me on pace with course expectations and fostered a strong rapport, enabling me to delve into additional learning beyond the standard curriculum. I take pride in my ability to navigate complex academic challenges with resilience and dedication, traits I am eager to bring to UNC to pursue further academic excellence.

Once you perform well in one arena, the more areas you want to excel in; this stays true as my initial foray into the professional workforce was as a tutor, where I imparted knowledge in vital computational and mathematical subjects such as C++, calculus, Java, Python, and statistics. Commencing this role in August 2021, I have consistently demonstrated excellence and dedication, earning recognition through the prestigious SUN (Supporting University Needs) award, a testament to my outstanding performance of tutoring nearly 1350 students in one year. Additionally, I have extended my expertise as an Instructional Aide, collaborating closely with professors to streamline classroom activities, meticulously grade assignments, and provide crucial academic support to students. This role enhanced my teaching skills, contributed to my peers' academic success, and deepened my appreciation for academic collaboration. I am eager to leverage these skills and insights in the enriching educational environment at UNC, aiming to foster a dynamic learning atmosphere and significantly contribute to the university community.

Entering college, I initially struggled with teamwork and effective communication. Overcoming this challenge through project collaborations and pushing myself out of my comfort zone, I now stand confidently, ready to lead teams to success. My tutoring role significantly improved my communication skills, involving constant interaction with diverse individuals. Despite difficulties grasping core principles during my sophomore year, I resisted switching my major, recognizing the importance of overcoming challenges. This newfound confidence propelled me to successfully lead a capstone project, developing a web-based game for NASA's Psyche mission. The project pushed me to learn the Unity game engine, showcasing my commitment to continuous learning and high-quality deliverables. This journey highlights my transformation from a team struggler to a capable leader, demonstrating resilience and determination.

I've led 8 team projects in leadership roles, serving as team leader and scrum master. Driven by a commitment to high standards, I excel in producing quality code and motivating my team

effectively. Active participation in the Google Developer's Club at ASU has expanded my horizons through coding-related events and insights from industry professionals, fostering my enthusiasm for Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, I contribute to the community through marathons and charity runs, emphasizing personal challenges and giving back. Immersing myself in self-driven projects during my free time, such as developing iOS apps, websites, bots, and radio telescopes, showcases my adaptability and resilience. My technical expertise and experience will enable me to contribute effectively in a collaborative environment at UNC.

While at Arizona State University, I witnessed multiple pitch deck presentations and funding approvals for student-led startups. To further expand my entrepreneurial skillset, I enrolled in an entrepreneurship and value creation class and made a prototype for a fitness and wellness app called "HealthSync – *keep your fitness and nutrition in sync."* I received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the pitch deck and was strongly suggested to build it further and launch it into a real venture**.** Equipped with my entrepreneurial mindset and the program's offerings, I intend to delve deeply into the realm of Artificial Intelligence, with a specific focus on Autonomous Systems during my graduate studies. This expedition not only aligns with my academic pursuits but also seeks to augment the university's distinguished research portfolio. Using this foundation, I believe the integration of AI and entrepreneurship is my calling.

The Master of Science in Computer Science program at UNC stands out as the ideal choice to propel me toward my goals, offering essential resources and an extensive network of accomplished alumni. Embedded Intelligence lab and UNC-NLP, serving as a nexus for scholars across various computer-related disciplines, act as a catalyst for innovative products with far-reaching impacts on humanity and scientific realms. The prospect of being part of such an impactful and resourceful community excites me, providing an avenue to contribute to uncovering profound aspects of Artificial Intelligence and related fields, such as natural language processing. Professor Junier Oliva's remarkable expertise in AI and generative models perfectly aligns with my academic interests. Moreover, my affection for Michael Jordan makes UNC an irresistible choice for me to complete my Graduate school journey, offering me the chance to study in the same school as one of my idols.

In the crucible of my academic journey from rural India to Arizona State University, I have emerged with a 4.0 GPA, leadership roles, and a genuine passion for AI. My experiences, spanning tutoring, instructional aide, and leading diverse teams, have honed my adaptability and resilience. Overcoming initial challenges, I've embraced the transformative power of setbacks, mastering complex subjects and solidifying my commitment to growth. My proactive engagement in Autonomous Systems aligns with UNC's innovative environment. In conclusion, I am not just a student seeking education; I am a torchbearer of dreams, committed to pushing boundaries and contributing to the transformative landscape of AI. Enrolling in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the realization of a generational dream, a promise kept, and the beginning of a legacy thriving.