

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Paulomi Mahidharia

MS in CS

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“A good mind and good heart are always a formidable combination. But, when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.” ~ Nelson Mandela

The real meaning of the above stated vital quote by Sir Nelson Mandela was unfolded to me by my parents and ever since then education has added flavours to my life. The day I was born to my parents, they decided that I will be the only child they will cherish to have and provide me with the best lifestyle and education. As I grew up, my father's strictness towards my educational pursuits combined with my mother's complete awareness of my personal interests shaped my personality and enhanced my calibre. This subjected me to a competitive environment and profuse expectations at an early age which bolstered my interests in synchronization with the changing world and its concomitant boon of Technology-Computers. To give a thrust to my incipient talents, my father bought me my first computer which exposed me to this then newly developed invention at the age of seven. When I first placed my tiny fingers on the keys, I was amazed to see how wonderfully that machine performed multitude of tasks, connected me to my uncle abroad and turned dreams into reality. Since then, neither have my fingers stopped nor the urge for learning more about and probing into the future of computers, which turned into passion as years passed by. A blend of technology, human cognition and education has led to the most efficacious inventions ever in human history. Being inquisitive and quick-witted by nature, these colossal changes sparked by science and technology strongly persuaded my interest in the field of Computer and Informatics, an assuring gateway to technological advancements and bounteous opportunities. This propelled me to reinforce my interest and alacrity into career and opportunities-the reason that invoked a desire inside me to take up Computer Science and Engineering as the major field of my higher education.

I completed my schooling from Auxilium Convent High School in 2011. The manifestation of numerical, abstract and logical reasoning, highest career preference for technical field in my aptitude based psychological report and other concomitants of my academic strengths, persuaded me to take up Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as major subjects for high school. An insatiable appetite for Math since childhood encouraged me to learn Vedic Math along with the contemporary, which helped me secure a gold medal with 80th rank at national level in Mathematical Olympiad. I also obtained meritorious rank in International Cyber Informatics Olympiad. While preparing for these Olympiads I not only gained much new knowledge but also confidence that devoting myself to math and computers was the right decision. After completing my high school, I felt that Engineering would be the area, which would give me the opportunity to learn and explore how the fundamentals of core computing are applied to create technologies for practical and real purposes. This urge to determine the actual working phenomena of a computer and my adoration for the fundamentals and emerging technologies made me take up Computer Engineering as a major for my Bachelor of Engineering at 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology', affiliated to 'Gujarat Technological University', Ahmedabad. The sheer hard work and dedication towards my passion for the core computer subjects as well as favourable momentum provided by the subject faculties and my parents have so far helped me procure a distinction CPI of 8.26/10 (3.8/4.0 GPA) in first three years of undergraduate degree.

A sound knowledge of myriad programming languages like C, C++, Java etc. and a broad range of courses spanning the gamut of Computer Science and Engineering have helped me develop penchant for various exploratory fields like Data Mining, Information Systems, Software Engineering, Information Security, etc. and their research and application potentiality. Additionally, I endeavoured to acquire extended knowledge in the areas outside the realms of my syllabus by studying courses like Android app development and Linux OS, working on case studies like software development phases of renowned industries like Coca Cola to get a realistic view, conducting 'beyond syllabus' presentations and seminars, attending workshops and participating in national level technical symposiums. This, along with a competitive grading system, provided me a broad scope of learning and also reflected in my excellent academic grades.

I persuaded my academic projects in web application development domain, with the thirst to delve into my three most favourite fields of interest-database, information systems and software engineering. I developed a semester project on

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“Online Movie Ticket Booking System” which elevated my knowledge of HTML, PHP and SQL. It offered an attractive GUI with unique features like watching trailers, ticket cancellation and refund. Currently, I am pursuing my project internship in an internationally recognised company–Bullion Flexipack Pvt Ltd. This Industrial Defined Project titled “Office Automation and Production Planning Application” (inspired by my father’s business needs) aims at providing a Web Application which automates daily office tasks, a collaborated Android App which forwards reports and e-mail notifications Managing Director’s tablet/cell phone, and a normalized database capable of holding huge amount of data. Along with the implementation technology “Microsoft .Net” and SMTP protocol, I am also doing intensive study of ERP software, Tally and SAP operation modules. This project has exposed me to a wide room of technical knowledge and industrial environment, helping me to learn about economic, financial and processing modules of an industry while making them technologically refreshed.

Besides my technical propensity, I have always been a participative personality. I always maintained 1st or 2nd position in art, elocution and debate competitions, both on intra and inter-school platforms. I learnt to take up huge liabilities and effective team organizational tasks as an Assistant Sport’s Captain and Sr. House Captain in high school. Also, my presentation skills and leadership qualities yielded me opportunities to organise and host Thanksgiving, Annual, and Sport’s Day programs. I have served as the cultural committee member of the college during which I played Master of Ceremony in the Cultural Festival. I have also worked as a technical event coordinator and promotion head in college’s national level festivals organised by Indian Society of Technical Education (ISTE) and Computer Society of India (CSI). These activities have whetted my confidence and personality in every facet of life.

“The thirst of knowledge, like the thirst of riches, increases ever with the acquisition of it”. In the initial three years of my bachelors, I realised that in India the conceptual impartation of knowledge is excellent but when it comes to real time application, United States of America has evinced a prominent position in leading the technologies at the doorstep of people. This served as bedrock to my impulse for acquiring higher level implementation-based knowledge from a place that proves to be an open sesame to the world of possibilities. Hence, I cherry-picked United States of America as the base to trigger my career as it has always converted ideas into innovations, assuring the strongest platform for educational pursuits and allowing diligent youngsters all over the globe to learn and burgeon. Being the only daughter in my family, I expressed my desire to study further to my parents and the will behind it. Their unimpeded support for the attainment of my goals invariably boosted my self-confidence.

My undergraduate study in Computer engineering has convinced me that I have only scratched the surface. I want my graduate education to transcend new scope for research in Computer Science and later into teaching domain so that I can share my work and benefit the society. I believe that an honorary degree from **University of Southern California** will prove to be a lifetime of kudos for an outstanding career in Computer Science. What attracted me to USC is the opportunity to receive high-level research oriented education under the guidance of frontline teachers like Dr Barry W. Boehm whose research work in database and information systems has amazed me. Moreover, due to its location in California–the technology hub, **USC** is the perfect cynosure for my ambitions as it assures a competitive environment with the added benefit of high-tech computer labs, veteran research experts to guide students and an environment endowed with a plethora of academic activities. I expect USC to provide me a launching pad for the career I aspire for and I assure that my hard work would spell success for every project undertaken–be it related to academics, sports or extra-curricular. I strongly believe that my serious passion for studies, sound computer engineering and quantitative background, analytical skills, unfaltering enthusiasm to learn & explore and the capacity to work hard can meet the demands of graduate program at USC. It seems to me as an excellent first step to achieve my goals and the international exposure and cultural diversity that I look forward to savor. In case you require any further details please be free to contact me at p.mahi257@gmail.com.

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