Essay #1:  
Please write a brief biographical sketch about yourself.  
Limit your response to 300 words.

In the personal experience of losing my mother due to a surgical procedure involving her pacemaker, I have developed a desire to save and improve the lives of others through engineering. Over the course of my life, I have been given many opportunities to shape my life in a way that would make my mother proud of my accomplishments and character.

When I was young, I was accustomed to moving frequently because of my father’s occupation. However, I consider Fargo, North Dakota, as my hometown where I completed my high school education. At the young age of sixteen I sought my independence by working to save money for a college education. During my time in Fargo, I became an agricultural research assistant and spent my summers laboring the research farm plots for North Dakota State University.

When of age, I had the opportunity to serve a mission in southern Brazil for two years which gave me a desire to be more invested in my life-long learning. After my mission, I continued to seek education at BYU. For two years, in order to offset the cost of tuition, I worked as a bus driver at the Missionary Training Center starting my days at 2:00 AM. Because of my pro-active work ethic, I was given leadership responsibilities and became the early morning supervisor to coordinate and oversee the safe transportation of over +200 missionaries each day.

Currently I am married and pursuing an education in mechanical engineering. My passion is in the field of biomechanics doing research and development on medical devices. In the last year I’ve been privileged to work in the biomechanics laboratory at BYU actively developing a medical stent with the hope of saving lives. Now I am gearing up to pursue a higher education through graduate school.

Essay #2:  
Please describe your educational, professional, and other goals. Describe how BYU  
will help you achieve them. Limit your response to 300 words.

In these upcoming years, I plan to be working on my PhD in mechanical or biomedical engineering. During my college career, I have pursued the education that would best enable me to make a difference in the world. As a mechanical engineer, I have delved into the biomechanical field as my personal interest of education. In seeking higher education, my goal is to pursue graduate school and enhance my learning in biomechanical engineering in order to improve the lives of people through medical innovations.

My time at BYU has opened many doors for me in respect to my goals. This past year I was priveledged to be accepted into the BYU Biomechanical Engineering Laboratory team to aid in the research and development of a new stent. Currently I am collaborating with a team with the hopes of publishing our research on bioresorbable materials that may be applicable to medical devices. In my optimization course, I am working on another publishable study to enhance athletic abilities by optimizing the motion mechanics of the human arm. Such opportunities have not only given me knowledge, but motive to follow through with my educational and professional goals.

As a husband and future father, BYU has been a blessing to me and my family and has helped me reach personal goals. My wife and I have learned many important and precious ways to build our family with high standards and dedication.

Essay #3:  
Please list and/or describe your participation and leadership during the last three  
years in extracurricular activities, including performance groups, athletics, cultural  
and civic clubs, and church and community service. Limit your response to 300 words.

In my mechanical engineering experience, I have been a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and have participated in the Biomedical Engineering Society at BYU. I presented a poster at a biomedical conference and received an award for my research. When possible, I try to attend biomechanical and neuromechanical lectures given at campus to broaden my knowledge and better acquaint myself with real-world issues.

Over the last three years I have also been involved in church callings that have given me the opportunity to serve others. I was a ward clerk for a year and was counted on for maintaining accurate and up-to-date membership and financial records. Currently I am in the Sunday School Presidency and have the responsibility to help train the ward’s instructors how to teach effectively to build membership unity.

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About three years ago my father was divorced after an abusive relationship that lasted eight years. In the aftermath of the divorce, he lost his retirement to my step-mother and pays an excessive alimony. Though he works +60 hours a week, he is still in serious debt. Because of the impact of this debt and his claim on me as a dependent over the years, I have had to work part-time throughout my college career in order to pay for school and living expenses. After my mission, I had $20 to my name and had to seek a job immediately while going to school. For two years I worked at 2:00 AM as a bus driver transporting missionaries from the Missionary Training Center to the airport. Currently I have accumulated a debt of about $5000 in government loans to get through school.

Because of these situations, I would like to be considered for the financial need scholarship. Thank you for your time and consideration.