1. **Describe your personal background and any obstacles/challenges that you have overcome.**

* **Hi, my name is Nhat Minh Dinh, I am the first born of a first-generation immigrant family from Vietnam. I came to the US first time on 7/1/2017, and lived in Riverside County for a while before moving to OC. Let’s skip the cliché parts that an immigrant usually gone through such as language barrier, race related problems, and mental meltdown. Yes, we went through all of that, and we almost had to come back to Vietnam as the U.S was very harsh on us for the first six months. But after that, thing became a little bit better, I picked up a part time job delivering food for big brand like Uber, Grubhub and use that money to get by while going to Cypress College. I was a little bit lost when it comes to choose my major, I changed my major 2 times (Chemistry and Nursing) before I found computer science. While there are a lot of people with CS degree, I believe it will only make the talented and hard-working one stand out more. As about obstacles, while being disadvantage financially is a nightmare, I will say hanging out with the wrong type of people is way more dangerous. When I first came to the U.S, to fit in, I tried to be with the “cool” group of people in town. I was barely 18 at the time, literally knew nothing about America, and got myself in many troubles, which could lead to even worse scenarios like actual crime. Luckily, my parents parent bailed me out, literally slap me in front of all relatives, and woke me up. So, I chose to focus on my education, making some extra cash here and there to help my family.**

1. **(b) What are your reasons for choosing your academic field(s) of study including any concentrations?**

* **The reasons I chose computer science is I like solving problems. I have major advantages when studying STEM major classes is that I pick up very fast when it come to logical/critical thinking. Back to when I was in high school in Vietnam, I represented my high school 3 times competing a national competition for Bio in the freshman year, and Math in 2 other years. Only finish with the bronze medals 2 times out 3 times so did not get to compete further. I enjoy my major because its application can be applied to numerous field such as banking, accounting, tech, and analyzing. Each field will require more specific knowledge so while solving those problems, I get to know more about new cool thing.**

1. **Discuss your short and long term academic and/or professional goals**

* **For short term: I will maintain main GPA which is now around 3.7-3.8 (according to the academic requirement in the student center tab)**
* **For long term/professional goal: I want to focus more about my actual ability rather than many theoretically knowledge. School’s knowledge is important for sure, but no one can remember all that knowledge 100%, and it does not harm anyone when we go back and study in case, we need it in the future. One shall never stop learning, but be smart and choose what one should learn.**
* **My ultimate goal: I want to achieve financial freedom as soon as possible.**

1. **Discuss three academic, leadership, volunteer, community, and/or professional achievements.**

* **Volunteer: Not winning any contest yet but when I was in my ESL class in Cypress College, me and one other class mate managed to help two other classmate who was two mid 50s elderly Korean, and Vietnamese ladies gave a 10 minutes presentation and prepared them for a 5 minutes debate.**
* **Academic achievements: 2 bronze medals from Olympic contests in Vietnam for Biology in fresh man year, and Math in the last year of high school.**
* **Community achievement: I was a church usher for a local church. I could not continue because it contradicts with my working and studying time. But I am working on my schedule because I really enjoy the community that our church created.**

1. **Describe your financial need. Please explain changes in your financial or personal situation that will affect the upcoming academic year (e.g., parent's or spouse's contribution, job change, marriage, divorce, number of dependents, medical, etc.).**

* As immigrants with no ability to communicate in English, my parents have had to accept low-paying jobs. My father is a factory worker, and my mother is a stay-at-home wife because of her heal conditions. I could not drive much since I need to focus more on my education because I am starting many high-level courses now and can barely drive at all. My money is all used up for gas and food and sometime pay any utility bills that may fall behind. I believe I deserve to be selected for one of your program’s scholarships because I am a hard working student and I will commit myself to effectively take advantage of the opportunity that the scholarships will provide me.