Essay

What does the admissions committee need to know while considering your application? Tell us the part of your story that is not in the application documents (no word or length requirement)

My interest in the field of computer science grew while working on my final year project of undergraduate degree where we created a useful analytical dashboard using raw chunks of data. I was ecstatic when I first experienced the transformation of meaningless data into a significant, visually appealing dashboard. I feel excited about the wide application of the field nowadays, especially in artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, software engineering and many more. Having a genuine passion for learning and keen interest in keeping up with the pace of evolution in the IT sector, I, after working for over three-and-half years in the industry, wish to explore the field in-depth by pursuing a Master of Science in Computer Science.

On the academic front, I have completed my undergraduate degree in Bachelor of Engineering (Information Technology) where coursework provided me with a solid foundation in programming concepts, languages, data structure, algorithms, database system, and software development methodologies. Outside of the standard coursework, I actively took part in PHP and ethical hacking workshops. During college, I had an opportunity to work as an intern in a web development firm where I gained practical knowledge on creating responsive websites using HTML, CSS (Bootstrap) and PHP. By the end of the internship, I was able to develop a 'Leave Management System' that allowed students to efficiently apply and manage leaves.
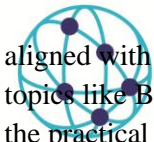
During my time in college, I was part of a team where we developed 'Virtual Race', a motion sensing game that used object detection and image processing to run. This project helped me to understand workflow and design and development of applications and gave me in depth knowledge and practical experience on Java. As our final year project we created a 'PharmaBase Analytical Dashboard' which showcased the number of people affected by different types of cancer, availability of hospitals and medicines in my city. This opportunity allowed me to broaden my horizon and study about data mining concepts. While working on these projects my passion for computer science grew and I was fascinated by the sheer power of technology making our lives easier.

After completing my undergraduate degree, I joined a reputed Indian IT firm, LTIMindtree as a software tester and software developer. Here, I had opportunities to coordinate and collaborate with cross-functional teams on different projects to develop and implement software solutions and face real-world challenges. My consistent and conscious efforts helped me get promoted to a senior software engineer in a very short period. For the past two and a half years, I have been working as a Java backend developer where I not only delivered high-quality, bug-free software solutions within strict deadlines but also mentored junior developers, fostering a collaborative and knowledge-sharing environment within the team. Prior to this, I worked as a software tester. These experiences helped me gain valuable insights and understanding of the field and industry practices.

Working in the industry for almost four years, I am well aware of the dynamic nature of the computer science field and that's why I am eager to acquire advanced knowledge on data structure and algorithms, data analytics, machine learning, data visualization, and software engineering which will help me achieve my goals. I believe a Master's degree will allow me to stimulate my intellectual curiosity and enhance my knowledge and skill to excel in the field of Computer Science.

Upon completion of the Master's program, I intend to work for a respected firm where I can apply my knowledge and skills to develop innovative solutions that can augment efficiency and improve user experiences. Furthermore, I aspire to transition into leadership roles where I can shape software development initiatives, guide other team-mates and contribute to strategic decision making. In the longer term, I want to contribute to the advancement of the field in my home country by providing effective solutions for real-world problems faced by society.

After going through several universities in the United States, I found Texas Tech University ideal for me. Its comprehensive curriculum, student-friendly programs, modern facilities, distinguished faculty, and vibrant research facility has impressed me the most. Texas tech offers diverse learning opportunities on courses like Programming with R for Data Analysis and Machine Learning, Advanced Database Management Systems and many more which are

aligned with my academic as well as professional goals. I am particularly eager to learn from Professor Tommy Dang on topics like Big Data Visualization and Visual Analytics which will help me become a successful data analyst. Moreover, the practical approach of study will provide me with exposure to a real time work environment.

Apart from academia, I have always been an active member of extracurricular activities. I have acted as event co-head where I have successfully organized and managed a college fest. I have also been a public relation officer where I have developed PR strategies and campaigns for promoting the fest's technical and cultural events. All this helped me hone my communication, creativity, leadership, and crisis management skills.

I am confident that Masters of Science in Computer Science at Texas Tech University will equip me with skills to excel in the rapidly evolving field of computer science. I look forward to the opportunity of joining the esteemed academic community at your university.