Profile

Personal information

Name	Shah, Milav
Share different name	No
Birthdate	01/28/2008

Contact details

Email, Phone	shahmilav@gmail.com, +1.609-865-0513, Mobile, No other telephone
Permanent address	552 Village Rd W West Windsor, NJ, 08550-2012, USA

Demographics

Sex	Male
Pronouns	He/Him
Military status	None

Language

English	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Gujarati	Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
Spanish	Speak, Read, Write
Hindi	Speak

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status	U.S. citizen or U.S. national
Birthplace	New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America 17 years US

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested No

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Both Parents

Parent 1

Father

Name	Jigar Shah
Email, Phone	shahjigar@yahoo.com, +1.848-391-1215, Mobile
Occupation	Computer programmer or analyst, Employed,
Education	Graduate school

Parent 2

Mother

Name	Dr. Miloni Shah (Fozdar)
Email, Phone	smiloni@yahoo.com, +1.732-910-4089, Mobile
Occupation	Dentist (including orthodontist), Employed, Garden State Smiles
Education	Graduate school

Siblings

Riana Shah, Age 14

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, 90 Grovers Mill Rd, Plainsboro, NJ, USA, Public, CEEB: 311232 (09/2022 - 06/2026)

Progression	No change in progression
Graduation Date	06/2026

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank	na / 375
GPA	4.5455 / 4, Weighted

Current or most recent year courses

First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
CALC - AP Calculus BC - (AP)	CALC - AP Calculus BC - (AP)	CALC - AP Calculus BC - (AP)	CALC - AP Calculus BC - (AP)
ENG - AP Literature and Composition - (AP)	ENG - AP Literature and Composition - (AP)	ENG - AP Literature and Composition - (AP)	ENG - AP Literature and Composition - (AP)
HIST - AP United States History - (AP)	HIST - AP United States History - (AP)	HIST - AP United States History - (AP)	HIST - AP United States History - (AP)
LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)	LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)	LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)	LANG - AP Spanish Language - (AP)
SCI - The Physics of Astronomy - (REG)	SCI - The Physics of Astronomy - (REG)	SCI - The Physics of Astronomy - (REG)	SCI - The Physics of Astronomy - (REG)
ART - Photography I - (REG)	ART - Photography I - (REG)	ART - Photography I - (REG)	ART - Photography I - (REG)
OTH/ELE - Financial Literacy - (REG)	OTH/ELE - Financial Literacy - (REG)		
	PE/HLTH - PE 12 - (REG)	PE/HLTH - PE 12 - (REG)	PE/HLTH - PE 12 - (REG)
PE/HLTH - Health Ed 4 - (REG)			

Honors

First Tech Challenge Robotics Inspire Award, 1st Place	State/Regional	11
First Tech Challenge Think Award, 2nd Place	State/Regional	11
First Tech Challenge NJ State Finalists	State/Regional	11
First Tech Challenge Design Award, 2nd Place	State/Regional	10
HSN Advent of Code, 1st Place	School	9, 10

Future plans

Computer programmer or analyst, Masters

Testing

SAT tests

Evidence-based Reading and Writing	770	11/04/2023
Math	800	11/04/2023
Taken	1	
Planned	0	
SAT Essay	No	

AP Subject Tests

Computer Science A	5	05/2024
Calculus AB	5	05/2025
Computer Science Principles	5	05/2025
English Language & Composition	5	05/2025
Calculus BC		05/2026
Spanish Language & Culture		05/2026
United States History		05/2026
English Literature & Composition		05/2026

Activities

Academic

12
Break
35 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr
Continue

Led machine learning team, MIT Beaver Works Summer Institute, Remote Sensing for Disaster Response
Applied AI to satellite images; Designed models for disaster relief; Collaborated with team to simulate a hurricane and test response strategies

Research

11, 12
Year
4 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

AI & Linguistics Research Assistant for Prof Dalal, Columbia University
Research using LLMs and in-context learning to translate ancient languages. Processed datasets; Analyzed AI model accuracy and performance

Robotics

9, 10, 11
Year
8 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Senior Programmer, FTC Robotics Team #18061 Simply Complex (NJ State Finalists, 2024-25)
Designed robotic arms, algorithms, and vision; Recruited & mentored 6 members; Coordinated outreach events. Led team to NJ Finals out of 54 teams

Computer/Technology

10, 11, 12
Year
5 hr/wk, 52 wk/yr
Continue

Founder and Developer, https://stocksimulator.xyz
Built, deployed website with latest tech. Engineered real time trading, portfolio, and social features. 8000+ US stocks/ETFs available for trade.

Community Service (Volunteer)

10, 11, 12
Break
4 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr
Continue

Java & JavaScript Programming Workshop Instructor, Mercer County Library
Instructed 100+ youth; Designed and taught CS fundamentals; Adapted to differing education levels. Guided projects and encouraged interest in CS

Religious

11, 12
Year
2 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr
Continue

Local Representative, Young Jains of America
Organize regional and national events for local Jain youth; Represent the local community in national meetings; support outreach events.

Student Govt./Politics

12
Year
2 hr/wk, 12 wk/yr
Continue

Student Council Class Representative, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North
Advocate student concerns; planned spirit events like Homecoming; act as liaison with faculty; lead fundraisers to support class activities.

Internship

9
Break
1 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr

AI Ambassador, Inspirit AI
Promoted AI literacy and ethics; Led outreach efforts for InspiritAI; Coordinated workshops for students.

Other Club/Activity

9, 10, 11
School
1 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr
Continue

Participant, HSN Computer Science Club
Discussed computer science topics such as algorithms, cybersecurity, and machine learning. Participated in programming competitions and hackathons.

Athletics: JV/Varsity

10, 11
School
6 hr/wk, 10 wk/yr
Continue

Cricket, All-rounder, West-Windsor Plainsboro High School North
Founding member of the high school cricket team. Batted and bowled for the team for 2 seasons.

Responsibilities and circumstances

- None of these
- None of these

Writing

Personal essay

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

A few weeks of being outsmarted by squirrels teaches you pretty fast.

Outside my window was a chaotic scene of squirrels raiding the bird feeder. I grabbed the old Nikon camera from the shelf and rushed outside to try to capture the scene. The following moments were disastrous. The animals were unpredictable, quick, and vanished out of sight before I could even focus my camera. I started shooting in auto mode, but the results I got never captured the emotion of the moment I wanted to portray. The colors were off, the focus was wrong, and I had little creative control. Frustrated, I switched the camera to manual mode, despite not knowing how aperture, shutter speed, and ISO worked. I began stubbornly adjusting the dials and taking pictures. Most of them were terrible. Many were blurry, unfocused, or incorrectly exposed.

However, each bad picture taught me something new. With each shot, I asked myself questions: "What shutter speed would best freeze the leaping squirrel? What depth of field would capture the scene well? What white balance is the most accurate for my surroundings?" The process of asking questions and experimentation led to gaining knowledge and improving images. I identified my mistakes and formulated new hypotheses to test, learning through constant trial and error. Armed with my camera and curiosity, I set out expecting to capture beautiful photos of backyard wildlife. Instead, I captured a mindset of scientific thinking, experimentation, and discovery that still inspires me today.

The cycle of trial and error became my framework for approaching new challenges and environments. I started to apply my newfound knowledge of manual mode in the field. I spent days at the local Audubon preserve, tracking the sudden arcs of birds in flight. I experimented with shutter speed to create motion blur, highlighting the speed of a diving hawk, and used aperture to create depth, isolating a cardinal in the clear sky. On a trip to Yellowstone National Park, I sat on the roof of a Toyota 4Runner, watching the bison roam the open fields. I pointed my camera at the scene and started calibrating the settings with the same methodical curiosity that the squirrels had taught me. Each adjustment was an experiment, and every image was a data point. I analyzed my photos and consequently refined my techniques. The world was my laboratory, and the juxtaposition of light, motion, and color offered infinite opportunities for discovery.

This ethos wasn't limited to wildlife. I was determined to challenge myself and progress my photography journey. Last summer, I spent hours at night in the Nubra Valley in Ladakh, India, adjusting exposure times. Thirty seconds was too short, and ten minutes washed out the sky. After many attempts, I discovered that four-minute exposures revealed the breathtaking star trails of the Milky Way. The astrophotography process was more than technical. It also involved anticipating cloud cover, planning around moon cycles, and managing freezing temperatures. Standing in the thin mountain air of the Himalayas, I experienced the moment when persistent tinkering yields magical results. The stars represented my growth from animals in my backyard to capturing the vastness of the universe, one experiment at a time.

The chaotic backyard squirrels may have gotten the best of me, but they ended up being one of my best teachers. Photography taught me to be curious and to experiment, and in doing so, it changed the way I think. The journey from blurry squirrels to star trails under Himalayan peaks sparked a mindset of scientific thinking. Grounded in trial, error, and reflection, it now shapes the way I explore, learn, and create.

Challenges and circumstances

I have Crohn's disease. Due to flare-ups in 10th grade, my ability to participate in sports was limited, and it made it hard to focus in school. Despite this, I maintained strong academics and continued to challenge myself in rigorous courses. Managing my health while balancing school and activities has strengthened my perseverance and resilience, preparing me to handle future challenges.

Education progression

Details

Education progression details	No change in progression

University of Virginia questions

General

Preferred start term	Fall 2026
Admission plan	Regular Decision
Previously Applied	No
UVA Specific Fee Waivers	No
Testing plan	Yes
Financial aid	No
Portfolio	No
Do you have a parent or guardian currently employed by the University of Virginia?	No
Enrolled in VA Tribe	No

Academics

School/Program	College of Arts and Sciences
First Academic Interest	Computer Science - Bachelor of Arts
Second Academic Interest	Mathematics

Contacts

Mobile	I consent to be contacted by University of Virginia at the mobile phone number provided below.
Mobile Phone Number:	+1.609-865-0513
Connect for scholarships if admitted	Yes

Residency

qualify for in-state	No

Honor Affirmation and Final Questions

Honor Statement	Yes
School discipline Y/N	No
I understand that the University may rescind admission for failing to provide accurate and complete information on this application and any pre-matriculation materials, including information regarding disciplinary and conviction history.	Yes
Are you interested in learning more about the University of Virginia at Wise in Wise, Virginia?	No

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations.