During my senior year at Boston College I accepted a job at the National Security Agency to be an Applied Research Mathematician. I expected this appointment to be an auspicious beginning for my career in math. I hoped to work there for several years while obtaining a Masters degree part-time, and then to apply to a PhD program. Unfortunately shortly after I was hired, the NSA suffered media leaks that resulted in significantly enhanced security screening for employees. Nine months after I accepted the offer I still hadn’t worked a day at the NSA. My student loan payments were due and I was itching to start my career, so I decided to accept an offer from a software startup, Spoon.

Over the past year, I’ve taken advantage of this opportunity to upgrade my technical skills. I have put my quantitative mind to work solving detail-oriented problems in a high-pressure startup environment. I was promoted to lead systematic investigations of issues experienced by our community of over a million users, and also prototyped several of the company’s new projects as proofs of concept. Coming into a technology company knowing nothing beyond an introductory C programming class, I succeeded in this trial by fire and became an expert in the front- and backend of the company’s family of software. My time at Spoon has given me technical problem-solving experience that will help me succeed in this exceedingly analytical program.

My educational background as a math major will of course benefit me in this program as well. As an undergraduate, I stood out among my fellow math majors and earned entry into the Pi Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society. However, even after graduating such a rigorous program I feel uncertain precisely in which area of math I’d like to specialize. Part of the reason I am applying to this program is in order to sharpen my focus. I hope to achieve this through my coursework as well as through research experience. In particular I was excited to learn of the opportunity to write a Masters thesis, which I would be eager to take advantage of and truly immerse myself in a specific area of math.

Chiefly, this program will get me back on track to a career in math, which has been my goal for a long time. After completing this program, I hope to earn a doctorate degree and become employed as a university professor. My reason for choosing this field of study and this career is not only because of my interest in quantitative subjects or my proven aptitude for problem solving, but also because of my passion for education. My parents are teachers at the elementary and high school levels, and their experiences play a big part in my aspiration to be a quality educator at the university level. I know that with my ability and my personality, I can get students excited about studying math and entering the STEM fields. My educational foundation, analytical work experience, and compatible career goals make this program a perfect mutual fit.