**okokomjkIn 300 words or less, describe how your academic interest and/or professional goals will be fulfilled in your intended program of study at Illinois.**

Four years ago, I changed my major from pharmacy to computer science. This decision was perfect because I loved computers and wanted to use them to find interesting ways to solve practical problems. While at Pitt, I used my time and efforts wisely to learn and develop a solid foundation of basic programming concepts under an object-oriented programming early-focused curriculum, which gave me invaluable experiences such as learning the basis of data structures, assembly languages and using Java to manage prospective real world problems.

While Pitt offers me many learning opportunities, I am looking for a specific challenge which is offered at the University of Illinois at UC. Not only is UIUC’s CS undergraduate program prestigious in the world, it also offers an innovative curriculum. Many degree programs are a combination of computer science and other fields such as math, statistics, and arts and sciences. The CS+X degree programs are very appealing because they show UIUC offers guaranteed opportunities and flexibility for many students with different study interests to collaborate together. This innovative curriculum allows me to interact with many students from different academic fields. Participating in the student community, I can learn from their diversity and creativity which will enhance my practical knowledge base for use in my future field. Also, the CS curriculum at UIUC requires students to take upper-level mathematics courses such as Calculus 3, Linear Algebra, and Statistics & Probability. As an eager-to-learn student, I absolutely love this requirement because I believe higher-level math courses are needed for computer scientists and software engineers. The curriculum in UIUC definitely will aid my desire and ability to contribute to creating practical applications to help people and society.

**You have selected a second choice major. Please explain your interest in this major.**

My second choice major, Statistics & Computer Science is very appealing as much as first choice major is. Both majors share same computer science courses and discipline, and also similar math courses. My second choice major allows me to take upper statistics courses which give me a competitive edge in database and data analysis industry. Thus, I pursue Statistics & Computer Science as a second choice major.