**In 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 love computers and want to use them to find interesting ways to solve real world 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 interest me because they show UIUC’s capability of offering interesting opportunities and flexibility for students with different academic interests. This innovative curriculum allows me to interact with many students from different academic fields. XYZ (Explain why this is beneficial to you) 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 that higher-level math courses are needed for computer scientists and engineers. Moreover, UIUC has great faculty and research sources which I can freely use as I want to be involved with outside-class experiences. The curriculum in UIUC definitely will aid my will to contribute to creating practical applications to help people and society.