

College Personal Statement

I have been interested in engineering since middle school. My favorite class, PACT, included about ten to fifteen “talented” kids. Rather than lecture to us, we were put in groups and given situational problems to solve. We learned to tackle unpredictable scenarios and use what we had around us to solve problems. In this class, I learned that I enjoyed collaborating in groups to solve problems and to be the leader of a team. For one unit, we were given pH samples of water from a nearby contaminated river. We had to figure out the cause of the contamination and recommend a way to fix it. The idea that my work could solve a real problem, even though it was hypothetical, was exhilarating and I knew that this was what I wanted in a career. My perspective led me toward engineering, which prepares students to become the best leaders, thinkers, and problem solvers of their generation. I believe that the engineering program at the University of Pennsylvania would best prepare me to be successful in my career and in life.

While I have taken many foundation classes that will prepare me for an undergraduate engineering program, such as AP Physics and AP Calculus, I have developed a particular passion for statistics and finance. I hope to progress into a career where I can apply an engineering background to these interests and this is why the University of Pennsylvania stands out to me. UPenn not only excels in its engineering program, but it excels in all choices of study. This is exemplified by their prestigious Wharton school of business, widely considered the best business school in the world. I hope to enhance my education by contributing to research projects and UPenn has an outstanding history of student research successes. Programs such as the Rachleff scholars program and the Littlejohn undergraduate research program offer students like myself opportunities that are unmatched by other universities.

However, almost all prestigious engineering schools offer research opportunities or provide ways for students to learn essential business skills while maintaining focus on their engineering major. It was not until my first tour on campus that I realized how UPenn stood out. On just about every engineering tour I had been on, tour guides seemed to focus on stuff that was flashy, like their hugely expensive lab equipment, shifting focus away from what is really important to me, like the culture of engineering students. I wanted my classmates to be creative, outside-the-box thinkers that wanted to make a difference like myself. I've made several visits to UPenn and been able to speak with several students. I've learned that engineering at the University of Pennsylvania is unique in many ways, just as I had hoped. UPenn engineering students are versatile and interesting people who experience a wide range of growth opportunities that are not restricted to just classroom learning. They are able to manage their studies and extracurricular activities while greatly enjoying these experiences. My tour guide and other students feel that their studies truly will apply it to the real world challenges. This firsthand experience with UPenn students, and the passion they feel for UPenn, stood out to me among all of my other college tours and visits.

University of Pennsylvania is a perfect fit for me to pursue my education and interests as it offers the best engineering and business programs, extensive research opportunities and is supported by impressive students who are pursuing ambitions and goals similar to my own.

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