Personal Statement

Growing up in the southwestern farming town of Yuma, Arizona, I was exposed to hard working individuals at a very young age. My grandfather is a migrant farmworker, while my late grandmother was a factory worker. My father works in construction, and my mother has worked her way up positions in the county health department. No one in my family had the opportunity to attend college and seek higher education, so my parents consistently preached the importance of education. With a strong work ethic and strong support system, I exceeded academically in high school and was able to fund my tuition at Arizona State University.

Entering my undergraduate studies, I enrolled in the biomedical engineering program. I found myself unsure of my major choice and career goals, until I took an introductory programming course. Never being exposed to programming before, I was fascinated with the field. I researched the computer science program and talked to peers; the following semester, I decided to change my course of study to computer science. Now entering my senior year, changing majors was the best choice I made at Arizona State University.

Throughout my time in the computer science program, I have grown intellectually and professionally with each passing semester. I have excelled in my undergraduate coursework, maintaining a 4.00 cumulative grade point average, while meeting my responsibilities as an athlete on the university’s wrestling team. Moreover, I continually challenge myself to grow by delving deeper into the array of topics within computer science through personal projects, professional clubs, and events such as hackathons and seminars. This summer, I was fortunate enough to receive funding for two research projects through the Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) and ASAP, which are both NSF-funded programs. In addition, I am working full time as a software development intern for the Gowan Company in Yuma, Arizona. Through these experiences, I have been able to define my own interests and career goals. I hope to pursue research in big data to prepare myself for the exciting sectors within the industry, such as machine learning and artificial intelligence. I believe these areas of study will be extremely important in solving large-scale issues in the near future, as our technological advancements continue to evolve. I want to be part of that advancement whether it be in an academic setting or in industry. Earning a graduate degree will help
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...me not only advance my knowledge in a specific field, but also provide greater career opportunities upon graduation.

Although, I am nearing the end of my undergraduate program, I still have the desire and passion to learn more about computer science, and I love the opportunities, mentors, and learning environment that Arizona State University provides. I believe I have the traits and foundational knowledge to excel in the program, and it would be an honor to be granted acceptance into ASU's Master of Computer Science 4+1 program.