

How will you explore your intellectual and academic interests at the University of Pennsylvania?
Please answer this question given the specific undergraduate school to which you are applying.
(400-650 words)

*For students applying to the coordinated dual-degree programs, please answer this question in regards to your single-degree school choice. Interest in coordinated dual-degree programs will be addressed through those program-specific essays.

I, like all of the ambitious undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania, harbor dreams of the future. My dreams are both far and immediate. Distant are the peaks of parenthood and professional engineering contributions. My more immediate dreams encompass newfound relationships and intellectual stimulation that I hope to find in college. Of course, such stimuli will abound at the University of Pennsylvania, and I intend to absorb all that I can.

Specifically, the distinguished lectures at Penn Engineering will allow me to delve into the nuts and bolts of technology. In high school, such resources were absent; I was content with extending my ears to TEDTalk podcasts. However, learning solely through rubber earcups lacks a little oomph. Pennsylvania's lectures—especially the Rachleff Series—are the engaging and inspiring TEDTalks that I have always dreamt of attending. As an eager audience member, I will learn about the contemporary issues compounding technology, the inspirations behind innovative design, and the personal stories of today's pioneers. I will seek out this privilege with an open mind and open ears. While I may have preconceived interests in Computer Science and the field of artificial intelligence, I look forward to exploring the diversity of STEM from professionals who have actually been there.

Additionally, University of Pennsylvania's emphasis on interdisciplinary programs entices my imagination: I disapprove of approaching my education through an increasingly narrow lens. Taking advantage of Pennsylvania's interdisciplinary core, I can diversify my perspectives, peer connections, and intertwine otherwise disparate understandings. Above all of Penn's minors, the Cognitive Science minor is most desirable. This minor will allow me to combine computer science interests with human science—exploring the link between machine and man as I delve into psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy among other fields. Whatever path I choose, University of Pennsylvania's interdisciplinary background will gift me the opportunity of approaching academics not with constraint, but with creativity.

Besides the curriculum, I will expand upon my passions in alignment with Pennsylvania's prided research. Penn Engineering grants me wonderful access to state-of-the-art labs as a result of their impressive student to faculty ratio. I intend to take advantage as early as I can. As I indulge diverse courses while at Pennsylvania, I realize my interests will likely meander from those I

possess on Move-In Day. But for now, I see myself commencing summer research in Artificial Intelligence in the Undergraduate Research Program at CIS. Thanks to profound professor access, I aspire to contact professors including Sasha Rakhlin and Konstantinos Daniilidis, experts on machine learning and computer vision. Their recent research on optimized algorithms and odometry (underpinnings of self driving cars) teases my artificial intelligence aspirations. With their revered guidance, I hope to contribute to the collective movement of autonomous cars. I don't see myself single-handedly mapping out the US's four million miles of pavement, nor altogether solving the problem of sun glare hindering sensors. I do see myself learning from mentors and similarly impassioned peers, and accepting any task as stepping stone to a steering wheel-free society. With the considerable resources of Pennsylvania's labs at my disposal, I am privileged with encouragement to be impactful—whatever that may entail.

At University of Pennsylvania, I envision unprecedented personal development as I realize dreams and develop new ones. Here, along with expressing learning aptitude and social openness and academic creativity, I will express to lab-partners and mentors the dreams I hold dear. But for you, our interaction is fleeting. Hopefully you will ponder an image.

An image of me cruising down the highway. I cheer in front of a TV, embracing my five year-old, Eli. The screen depicts a football game: my alma mater defeating Cornell to win the 2040 Trustee's Cup. My hands have no need to lock onto a steering wheel, nor my eyes the road. I can savor this moment with my son, within the safe-haven of a self driving car.