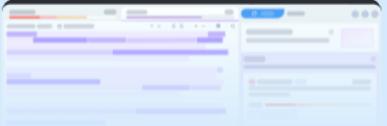Supplemental Essay — "Why This Major" The first time I created a basic simulation program in high school, I came to understand that computer science was not just a tool; it was actually a different way of thinking. I was fascinated not only with the act of writing code, but rather with how computational logic might turn the abstract into a concrete influence. This interest was further enhanced when I served as a team leader to develop an application that would assist local volunteers in making tutoring arrangements, combining my passion for service with technology. These experiences showed me that computer science is where my interests and my mission meet. The MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) would be the best place to develop this interest. The history of innovation of both robotics and machine learning at the lab, as well as the culture of innovation at MIT, aligns with my goal to participate in research that is geared towards advancing intelligent systems towards social good. I particularly look forward to the chance to work with undergraduates on algorithm-to-physical world bridging research. The focus of Stanford on interdisciplinary learning is also very strong. How Stanford approaches the idea of fostering students to relate computing to ethics, design, and entrepreneurship aligns with my own views that technology should be influenced by human values. Designing Your Life curriculum and Silicon Valley proximity would allow me to combine technical knowledge and practical problem-solving. The general orientation towards applying computational techniques to solve societal issues that the Data Science Institute uses at Columbia aligns with my own long-term aspirations to use AI in community health and education. Through observation of systems that benefit human beings, I hope not only to innovate but also to make sure that technology comes up to make life better.

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