

I first became interested in Computer Science as a high school student trying to understand the inner workings of networking and large scale network management. I was lucky enough to attend Northern Nash High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which had a pioneering Cisco Sponsored Networking Academy. It provided the vehicle to begin my studies into computer programming and gave early insight into terminal work. Following graduation, I attended ECU with a Major in Music Composition and Theory, but it became quickly apparent that my passion was still in computers. Upon returning to school in the fall of 2018, my focus shifted to a Major in computer science with a concentration in data science with the hopes of pursuing a career in the high performance computing field or in data analytics.

This summer, I had the unique opportunity to be a part of the Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI) Four Week Coding Institute. It provided me with the chance to learn about programming concepts that I have not had experience with in my collegiate career so far. The program also allowed the chance to further develop my skill set with the Python programming language as to better prepare myself for the final few semesters of my bachelor's degree. This also program created an interesting challenge as my exposure to web server concepts or application programming interfaces (API). Under the mentorship of graduate students and professors, my understanding of these concepts grew. To apply our knowledge, the participants of the program were tasked with implementing an API-passed application that were used as a teaching method for understanding the workings of Apache and the APIs we chose. Our team, which consisted of four students from various levels of knowledge on the subject constructed a shipping application that would determine the carrier based on the tracking numbers provided. The application also produced the tracking status of any packages tracked by number in our system.

From the SGCI program I expect to gain a more concrete understanding of the concepts of implementation of web applications through the Apache web server system and I hope to learn more about high performance computing. The skills I have learned here are the building blocks upon which I will construct a knowledge base that will help me achieve my long term goals of earning my doctorates and pursue a career in higher learning academia.