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Professional Statement for Coding Institute
Winston-Salem State University Computer Programming Student

Before attending college, I was unsure of what to major in. I researched the programs offered at Winston-Salem State University and I still was unsure what to major in. During my junior and senior years in high school, I was a part of a program called Delta Gems. Delta Gems was a youth initiative program that provided youth with opportunities to interact with positive role models, develop long-term mentoring relationships and to perform community service. There was a panel of professionals speaking for career day and one of the speakers was a project manager for Cisco. She spoke about why she majored in computer science, and how she began her career. This was the first time I ever heard of computer science and I wanted to know more. She offered me the opportunity to shadow her at her job at Cisco. She showed me the server room, introduced me to technicians, and shared what her day consists of. This experience alone made me want to major in computer science. I began to explore the careers within the field.

As a computer science major and a rising junior at Winston-Salem State University, I have been taught skills and experiences I will able to use in my professional career. For example, computer science students are required to take programming, software development, and hardware organization. What I learned from my programming classes is how to build complex programs and participate in projects using Java and Assembly language. In Java, I created a movie theater simulator that allowed the user to choose their movie, their seats inside the movie, calculate their total cost, and display their receipt. Additionally, I created an emergency room simulator that accessed each patient who brought through the door or ambulance. Each patient is assessed by priority and put into waiting rooms. Moreover, In Assembly language, I created a program used to calculate multiple restaurant bills and receipts using “for” loops. Most of these creations were made in an integrated development environment called BlueJ as well as a MIPS Assembler and Runtime simulator.

In fact, I also have experience with building applications. One application I created made a navigation system used to navigate the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Users were able to pinpoint their exact location and they would be given walking directions on how to get to their destination. I also made another application which served as an interactive quiz on the material learned in class at the time. Both apps were made on Scratch and MIT App Inventor.

My academic goals are maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.5 while obtaining my bachelor’s degree at Winston-Salem State University in computer science. I will continue my educational path by pursuing a Master’s Degree in Computer Science or Information Technology. Ultimately, I aspire to obtain a PHD in criminology. There are also many certifications that I would like to obtain including but not limited to; Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Computer Examiner (ISFCE), Digital Forensic Investigation Professional (DFIP), and Certified Computer Forensic Examiner (IACRD). With these academic goals, I hope to obtain a career in the forensic, and cybersecurity area of our criminal justice system.

One of the reasons why I chose computer science as my major is because growing up, there was a tv show called Criminal Minds I loved to watch. My favorite character was an intelligence Analyst for the FBI. Although the show is dramatized, that is when I discovered my dream job. The characters job consisted the analyzing and finding information, make judgments, and provide strategizes to mitigate threats, and gathering digital evidence through ethical hacking.

Another reason I chose computer science as my major is because I'm fascinated by computers. Specifically, by their ability to grow smarter over time through power and programming. It is the programming behind it that is the most interesting. When using a computer and its functions, I often ask myself "How does the computer know what to do" or "What does the operating system look like? "Or "why does the computer know all of these things?" In particular, artificial intelligence, machine learning, software development, and cyber security are what interest me the most.