

Professional Statement

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I became interested in computing the summer before my first year. I was accepted into the Howard Thurman's Honor Program at Morehouse College. The Howard Thurman's Honor Program is an invitation extended to students who display strong leadership and intellectual capacity. My freshman year, I was able to take relevant courses in Computer Science such as a C++ programming class and a computer hardware class. In my C++ programming class, I was able to develop proficiency and a deep understanding by working on projects and creating innovative programs. In my computer hardware class, I was able to learn the foundation of computing while also developing a proficiency in Google Excel Sheets and Microsoft Word. As a member of the "Code house" community at Morehouse College. Code House is a non-profit that focuses on cultivating a strong pipeline between students of color and industry-leading technology companies. At its core, Code House aims to tackle the diversity gap in technology by providing exposure and resources to enhance students' technical skills, promoting internship/full-time placement, and elevating the next generation of diverse leaders in technology.

Currently, I am involved in a four-week Coding Institute hosted by the SCGI. The SCGI Coding institute has taught us marketable skills in the field of computer science that I will describe in detail below. The first thing that we were taught in this curriculum was how to use Unix and Linux command lines. We had to demonstrate our understanding by completing the "bandit war game," where we used command lines to find hidden passwords in files and directories. We were then taught HTML, a programming language to build websites, as our next step of the curriculum. We worked through Code Academy's interactive assignments and quizzes to show proficiency; We were then awarded a certificate. Python was the next task that we learned. For Python, we also worked through the Code Academy course to earn our certificate. To ensure growth around professional development, the SCGI Coding Institute has guest speakers come and speak to us on a day-to-day basis to talk to us about the Information Technology field. They give us insight on how they got into the position they are in, while also giving us professional advice on any questions we had.

The SCGI has also, has also given us experience in the research department. The SCGI made us take the CITI course where I was taught how to ethically use research for academia. At the end of the course, I was awarded the CITI certificate. To also build on our research abilities, we were tasked with authoring a paper on the history of the SCGI. This assignment enhanced my abilities as a researcher as I had to research and extrapolate information with the resources that were provided to me.

I am a member of the Make a Play Foundation. The Make a Play Foundation ("MAP") is a non-profit organization that prepares underrepresented athletes for executive careers in competitive industries. I was selected as one of 90 rising sophomore athletes to participate in a professional development course that develops in-demand skills for competitive industries. I have had to participate in MAP's six week accelerated professional development course to prepare for interviews through weekly mock interviews - both behavioral and situational- using the STAR method. Completed two modules designed to develop interpersonal communications and personal branding, which resulted in tailored resumes for competitive industries. Participated in weekly meetings with expert coaches- and former underrepresented student-athletes-which resulted in personalized engagement with Fortune 500 companies such as 3M, Deloitte, Ernest & Young, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, NFL, NBA, Google, and Morgan Stanley.