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RHET 1302

6 September 2024

Statement of Purpose

As someone who has always been eager to learn and keep up with the times, combined with my inherent fascination and fixation on everything tech, a career in information technology seemed like an obvious option. My drive to keep up through learning and doing keeps my knowledge and expertise up to date with the latest in the industry, and my problem-solving ability comes into play for many day-to-day tasks in IT, from systems engineering to product development lifecycles, and troubleshooting of all levels.

I am currently a first-year sophomore-by-credit student at the University of Texas at Dallas, majoring in Computer Information Systems and Technology, with a minor in Cybersecurity. In my studies so far, I have learned the theories behind IT/IS project management, IT's role in business support and advancement, and product development lifecycles. On the hard skills side, I am receiving formal training in the Java programming language. Outside of my classes, I am an active member of the Cybersecurity Club, where I attend regular seminars regarding advances in cybersecurity. I am also a developer in an ACM Project geared towards implementing LLM's in support of L1-type IT Support.

My long-term goal is to begin a career in cybersecurity or systems engineering for network infrastructure. My ideal position would be as a Systems/Network Administrator or

Cybersecurity Engineer, where I would support an organization's digital infrastructure in order to drive business growth and protect their assets.

AI-Generated Statement of Purpose

From an early age, I've been fascinated by the complex systems that power the digital world. As a sophomore pursuing a degree in Computer Information Systems, I am eager to deepen my knowledge and gain practical experience in cybersecurity and network infrastructure. These fields are of particular interest to me, as I aspire to build and secure the systems that underpin modern technology.

Throughout my studies so far, I have developed a strong foundation in networking, database management, and information security principles. Recently, I worked on a class project to design a small network infrastructure for a fictional company, incorporating security measures such as firewalls and VPNs. This hands-on experience enhanced my understanding of the challenges in maintaining secure, scalable networks. I am also actively involved in cybersecurity competitions, where I have learned the fundamentals of ethical hacking and network defense strategies.

My long-term goal is to work in cybersecurity or network systems engineering, helping organizations protect their digital assets from evolving threats. I am particularly drawn to your program's focus on practical, hands-on training, which I believe is essential for excelling in this field.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue developing my skills and contribute to your program.

Comparison

A Statement of Purpose is a one-page document written to introduce a candidate in a professional or academic application. It typically contains the academic, professional, and some personal history of the candidate to add a personal touch to the candidate's application and summarize key points they would want a reviewer to pay attention to. In the Statement of Purpose I've written I follow a common structure to the ChatGPT statement does similarly. However, ChatGPT differs from my version primarily in its details. Secondly, ChatGPT elaborates on main points less, while my statement tends to have less points with more detailed and technical elaborations.

My version and the ChatGPT version follow a similar structure. In both versions, the statement opens with a hook that utilizes personal detail to contextualize and engage the reviewer. Afterwards, both versions review experiences gained through academic contexts, such as class projects. Then, both versions segue into a statement of a long-term career goal and end with that (ChatGPT). This similarity is likely because this is the common prescribed method for writing a Statement of Purpose, and ChatGPT was likely trained on Statements of Purpose that followed this format.

However, there is a glaring difference in details between my version and ChatGPT's version. ChatGPT mentions projects and concepts that I have not studied, such as networking and a large-scale infrastructure project (ChatGPT). This is because ChatGPT does not know me, and I did not provide it with the full details it would need to write an accurate statement. This difference is significant and important, as if I had tried to use the ChatGPT version, I would be lying on the application. Furthermore, the statement would barely line up with my resume, which

would most definitely raise eyebrows with the reviewers. For this reason, ChatGPT is much more suited to giving layouts or inspiration, and not writing your paper directly.

A less obvious difference is that ChatGPT does use the same level of technical detail that I do. In my version, I use industry-specific vocabulary that displays my expertise in the field I am applying in. This contrasts with ChatGPT using less tech jargon and being a bit vaguer, however talking more about behavioral results (ChatGPT). This can be good in certain situations, especially in professional situations. However, it may be less well suited to academic situations, where less jargon and more overall points may be beneficial.

Overall, ChatGPT writes a solid Statement of Purpose that communicates a more personal aspect of an application. However, it differs from mine in the level of detail and also in accuracy, which can be a crucial factor in a Statement of Purpose.

Works Cited

“Generate a statement of purpose for an undergraduate Computer Information Systems and Technology student” prompt. ChatGPT, 13 May version, OpenAI, 30 August 2024, chatgpt.com.