

1. Describe your personal background and any obstacles or challenges that you have overcome.

My journey is characterized by a relentless pursuit of academic and professional excellence, underpinned by personal challenges that have shaped my resilience and determination. Coming from a modest family background, financial constraints were a persistent reality. My parents, though supportive, could not afford to fund advanced educational opportunities or extracurricular activities that many of my peers enjoyed. This limitation, however, became a catalyst for my self-motivation and resourcefulness.

During my undergraduate studies, balancing a rigorous academic schedule with part-time jobs to support my education was a formidable challenge. The time management and organizational skills I honed during this period were invaluable, enabling me to maintain a high GPA while also contributing to household expenses. This experience instilled in me a deep appreciation for hard work and the value of education.

Moreover, moving into the business sector brought with it new difficulties. I first struggled with imposter syndrome as an intern at Cognizant and then as a full-time worker, feeling out of place among more seasoned colleagues. However, I used this insecurity as motivation to study and become a better version of myself. My promotion came about as a result of my commitment to learning new skills, looking for mentorship, and gradually taking on more challenging assignments.

These experiences—managing budgetary restraints, juggling work and school, and conquering self-doubt in my professional life—have strengthened my resilience and molded my compassionate leadership approach and unwavering dedication to lifelong learning and development.

2. What are your reasons for choosing your academic field(s) of study, including any concentrations?

My passion for technology and how it has changed society inspired me to pursue a Master of Science in information systems after earning a Bachelor of Science in a STEM discipline. This academic trajectory is deeply rooted in my inherent curiosity about how technology can be leveraged to solve real-world problems.

I was fascinated by the complex ways that systems and software may be designed to spur creativity, increase efficiencies, and produce long-lasting solutions during my undergraduate studies. Software development and data analytics classes were more than simply academic endeavors for me; they served as a prism through which to see

possible advancements across a range of business domains. This insight piqued my curiosity about learning more about information systems, a discipline at the intersection of business and technology.

My decision was further cemented by my internships at Accenture and my eventual full-time position at Cognizant. I was introduced to the real-world applications of information systems in corporate settings through my work on projects that entailed creating tools for predictive analysis and bespoke software. I have direct experience with how well-thought-out systems can improve operations, guide choices, and spur company expansion.

For me, getting a Master's in information systems makes sense. Focusing on data analytics is especially appealing to me since I think it will play a major role in determining how tech-driven business solutions develop in the future.