

It might seem strange for someone who wants to major in Economics, but as a child, I performed poorly in my math classes. In China, I failed my math tests and could not seem to succeed, but in elementary school I was offered an opportunity at success. My dad came to the United States to pursue his PhD and when I came with him, I found that I had to compete with a stereotype. Most Americans think Chinese people are good at math, which was definitely not the case for me. So, I started to study hard and once I found my drive, I began to get all A's in my math classes. This experience did several things for me: it taught me the value of overcoming challenges, the strength I had to face a weakness head on, and also instilled an interest in math that has continued until today.

Aside from helping me develop an interest in math, learning in the United States has helped me develop into a more outgoing, positive, and adaptive person. Many students from my hometown wouldn't have been able to point to the United States on a map at the time that I first moved here and began my studies. This has given me a more global view and I know the importance of seeing how different people view different situations. To build on these points of view, I have done a lot of community service to give back to the community that has helped me. I participated in Day of Caring for two years and served as a Chinese tutor at my school for two semesters. These experiences allowed me to interact with new people and gain new perspectives, and gave me work that I could value. I know that I helped others and hopefully they learned from our interactions as well.

I hope to continue to grow into a strong and independent person. My first step down this road was when I chose to go to college and pursue Economics. Both of my parents are highly educated and have high expectation of me and they wanted me to go to medical school. I was not interested in medical school, but it can be hard to make decisions when your parents pressure you one way. Ultimately, I followed my heart and pursued my interests, which lie in Economics. This choice was all my own and I think it was an important step to growing into who I am.

The University of California San Diego would be a great opportunity for me to continue my development. Given that the economics department at the university is driven by research and up-to-date information, I will be able to adapt along with the new research I am studying. I think it's important that so many research professors are involved in the required classes and that they give students the latest information in the developing field. I hope to graduate in the next several years and then pursue internships to find which part of Economics I really want to focus on. I appreciate that the university offers opportunities for internships and I think that these experiences will help me focus my goals before I move onto graduate study in my chosen interest. Getting my degree in Economics at UCSD offers broad choices for the future and I am excited to explore all of those options.

Education is very important to my family and to me so I would like to earn a degree at one of the top research programs in Economics in the country. The experience I can gain will help me achieve my personal and professional goals. I am even ready to tackle all the math that is integral to the degree!