# Internal Transfer Application Personal Statement

## Tianqi (Jerry) Jia

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## *Please answer the following questions in your personal statement:*

## 1. What has changed since your enrollment in your current program that has prompted you to seek an internal transfer admission?

I have gained a better insight into my interests and strengths since my initial enrollment in Gallatin. Wishing to explore the intersection of computer science, economics, and psychology, I entered the Gallatin School of Individualized Studies which promotes a broad-based liberal arts education. Since then, however, I realize that my interests are quite sharply focused. Thanks to my AP credits, I started taking an intermediate-level course CSCI 102 Data Structures in my first semester. Taking that course made me realize how broad and deep the field is. There is so much more for me to explore in computer science: algorithms, data analytics, software engineering, and so on. Therefore, I wish to further my study in computer science in depth.

Also, upon my discussion with Professor Philip Pärnamets who taught me Social Psychology in fall 2019, I found a second deep interest is in behavioral economics – a systematic integration of psychology and economics.

Following this change in outlet, I’m thrilled that there is a joint major in computer science and economics. This joint major would allow me to gain a deeper understanding of the intersection of these two fields. The theory track of economics planned in this joint major couples perfectly with my interest in computer science as it fosters computer-assisted quantitative analysis of the economy. Therefore, after deliberate consideration, I’ve decided to seek for internal transfer admission to this economics and computer science joint major.

## 2. What have you been doing to prepare for study in your proposed new school or college and/or major?

Because both computer science and economics were both of interest to me as I entered college, I have been proceeding in the degree roadmaps for these fields since I began my first semester. Using my AP Credits, I placed out the entry-level course of computer science and took CSCI 102 Data Structures and CSCI 201 Computer Systems Organization respectively in the first and second semesters in which I’ve done well.

Moreover, I have been keeping close contact with both the economics and computer science departments’ offices of undergraduate advising to discuss the degree requirement for the computer science and economics joint major. Upon the advisors’ approval, I enrolled in Calculus III to satisfy the math requirement for the joint major after I placed out Calculus I and Calculus II using my AP credits. I also carry AP credits to place out the intro to microeconomics and the intro to macroeconomics, so I am capable of taking intermediate-level economic courses as soon as I enter my sophomore year.

Apart from consistently advancing my study in computer science and economics, I have been actively participating in events related to these two fields. I competed in the HackNY2019 hackathon in fall 2019 and won a second-place with an App I developed with my team in 48 hours. I have also attended a Morgan Stanley Business Bootcamp as well as being a member of the Gallatin business society. These experiences allowed me to grasp the trending knowledge regarding computer sciences, business, and economics. At this point, I am confident that I will be able to complete the joint major of economics and computer science in college.

## ****3. Briefly describe how you feel your educational goals can be better achieved in this program of study?****

Besides discovering the benefits that I can get from simultaneously studying computer science and economics, I have also thought through my post-graduation plans. US big tech companies such as Google, Apple, Facebook, and Apple have been prevailing in technological innovations. With an interest in high-tech, I look forward to starting a career in the US after I graduate from university. Gallatin graduates receive a Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies which not may decrease employment opportunities in companies that value specific technical degrees but also prohibits me from applying a STEM OPT Extension after graduation. As an international student, an OPT permit from USCIS is crucial if I want to be employed in the US after I graduate. According to NYU’s Office of Global Services, only graduates with a Bachelor of Science in STEM are qualified to apply for a 2-year OPT Extension. Without it, my employment opportunities in the US will be strictly limited. Therefore, it became essential for me to seek an internal transfer to achieve my educational and career goals.