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Intellectual Autobiography and Plan for Concentration

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When I committed to Gallatin, I wanted my concentration to be centered around Business and Computer Science; but I had no idea what it meant or what a study in Business even entails. All I knew was that I enjoyed programming and had an interest in running a business. Gallatin was extremely appealing to me during the application process because of the amount of freedom and flexibility it offers. If I had not committed to Gallatin, I would have gone to Boston University as a Computer Science major which did not seem to be a terrible choice at that time.

I took my Introduction to Computer Science class the fall semester of my Freshman year, and I almost failed my final. After that, I discovered that my passion for Computer Science is more rooted in solving problems instead of understanding how computer systems work. After discussing with my advisor, Dennis, I shifted my focus to data analysis because it offers a similar level of intellectual challenges as programming yet it does not require to have a full understanding of the computer system. So I started to take classes in data analysis.

I have always challenged myself to be in a leadership position since the beginning of my college career. Throughout my experience of being a leader, I have noticed that I really enjoy and particularly good at building a strong team culture and identifying problems. I took a class called The Meaning of Leadership which also further confirmed my interest in being a leader and managing a team. My original idea of running a business now has shifted towards how to build a

team. Instead of taking more finance or accounting classes at Stern, I have chosen more management courses.

Moreover, I have discovered my passion for the fashion business in the past few years. I have always been interested in fashion but I did not know how to fit that interest in my concentration. I took an internship at APM Monaco, a jewelry company from Monaco. At that time, I did not know that much about the fashion industry. APM Monaco does not identify itself as a fast-fashion company, yet I have noticed its instable management structure in North America and terrible communication system. After that internship, I began to lose my interest in the fashion industry. I really did not like how the retail department functions and its company culture at APM Monaco. However, the class, Practicum in Fashion Business, has changed my mind. Through class discussion and conversations with industry executives, I saw how brands can leverage their power and brand identity to advocate for their customers and to tap into politics and current events.

My goal is to get into a top MBA or MIM program right after graduation which is very challenging because of my lack of work experience. I think that my focus for the next two years will be building a killer resume and designing a concentration that will help me to get into an MBA program. My concentration probably will be a combination of data analysis, leadership or management, and fashion business. After getting my MBA, I would like to work as a management consultant particularly in the fashion industry.