

Coming from an untraditional background, I understand the difficulty of re-calibrating your mind—often taken up by the throws of the social sciences—to contribute to more technical discussions in my day-to-day job as a Software Engineer. Even with my experience as a researcher analyzing the intersections between Computer Science, Political Science, and Sociology, I have trouble keeping up with those with proper degrees in STEM fields. I realize that this drawback can also be an advantage since I bring a different perspective to the table, however, I want to fill in the gaps in knowledge so I can become a better, more well-rounded engineer. This is where Merrimack comes in. By taking part in their Master of Science in Computer Science, I am taking the best first steps possible in obtaining better knowledge regarding the intricacies of software engineering. I will add even more foundational knowledge to my arsenal by building on the skills I already have now by taking the classes required by the program, such as Advanced Algorithms or Database Principles.

In terms of how this fits into my long-term goals, this will happen two-fold. On one hand, acquiring a graduate degree in Computer Science will allow me to interact with more aspects of the discipline, which is useful in my case since I want to obtain a PhD in the future in Human-Computer Interaction. Taking these rigorous classes will help me refine my research interests, find things I am good at, and get a more sophisticated technical aptitude so I can be a better researcher and engineer. On the other hand, the career trajectory this degree can propel me into is truly unmatched since I want to become a Director of Engineering or CTO of a high-profile company one day. Filling in the deficits of my technical knowledge, even theoretical, can make that aspiration that much more of a reality.

All in all, I strongly desire to become a better Software Engineer through this program at Merrimack and I can see how getting a graduate degree from this institution will not only be beneficial for me in the short term with my daily work, but in the long term setting me up for success and making my professional dreams that much closer in my reach.