

Business : After

Feel free to provide any other information you think would help us evaluate your potential to succeed in the program. (Maximum 375 words)

In addition to the other information in my application, I would like the university to know about my ambition and my leadership skills. I believe these personal qualities should receive as much consideration as my grades because they help paint the overall portrait of who I am and what I can contribute to your school.

During my first two undergraduate years my goal was to start a business. I devoted myself to learning all I could through practical projects and experiences. I was so passionate about this endeavor that my grades slipped, which I addressed as soon as I realized what had happened.

In addition to developing a business, I demonstrated leadership by serving as class president, arranging class trips and holiday parties. I have also managed my own stock account since I was sixteen, which has taught me about finances and investing.

Following two years of growth and change, my goals evolved. Rather than start my own business, I decided to pursue a graduate degree in financial engineering so I could work as a quant. I immediately poured all my resources into improving my grades. My overall GPA for the following three semesters rose to about 3.5/4.0. In addition, I scored an 82 percent on the GRE subject mathematics test, passed the CFA Level I exam, and earned a 730 on the GMAT.

These results testify to my raw ability and my academic potential. I would also like to highlight two additional achievements. First, based on my overall GPA, I was recommended to graduate from college exempt from the Chinese Graduate Entrance Examination. Second, I received a score of 82 in the mandatory course *Signal and Systems* in 2007, while half of the students in the 2008 session (more than 300 in nearly 600) failed this challenging course.

While my overall GPA might not be as high as other applicants, I believe that is primarily due to my focus on business during my first two undergraduate years. When viewed as a whole, my academic achievements are clearly stellar. I believe I have demonstrated that I am more than prepared to take on the rigors of your program. I urge you to consider not just my GPA, but my overall ability and performance.