
Stanford University questions

General

Entry Term	Fall 2026
Decision Plan	Regular Decision
Fee Waivers	I do not meet any of these criteria.
Citizenship	Citizen of a non-U.S. country
Financial Aid	Yes, I intend to pursue need-based financial aid from Stanford.
Interview Interest	Yes, I am interested in an interview. I understand that I may not be contacted for an interview due to school location or limited alumni volunteer availability. I acknowledge that my application will be complete with or without an interview.
Arts Portfolio Interest	No
Birth Country	India
Birth city	██████████
Years lived in U.S.	0
Years lived outside U.S.	17
Agree that work submitted is my own	I affirm that the work submitted in my application is ultimately my own.

Academics

First Academic Interest	Computer Science
Second Academic Interest	Mathematics
Third Academic Interest	Sociology

Contacts

Previously applied	No
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Family

Siblings applying	No
Have any relatives ever enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree	No

program at Stanford University?

Have any relatives ever been employed by Stanford University? No

Parent different address Yes

Which parent has a different address Parent 2

Parent 2 Address [Redacted]

Number of parents 2

PARENT 1 INFORMATION Mother

First Name [Redacted]

Last Name [Redacted]

Occupation [Redacted]

Job Title [Redacted]

Employment Status Employed

Birth Country India

PARENT 2 INFORMATION Father

First Name [Redacted]

Last Name [Redacted]

Occupation [Redacted]

Job Title [Redacted]

Employment Status Employed

Birth Country India

Number of siblings 0

Short Questions

Most significant challenge society faces

The most significant challenge that society faces today is inequality in access to opportunity. While attending the Olympiad training camp, I realised most of the students were from big cities, especially well-resourced private schools with established guidance systems. I saw that success correlated more with early exposure than raw potential.

Last two summers

I have spent most of my last two summers attending the national training and selection camps for the International Olympiad in Informatics and the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence. The rest of the time, I was relaxing, usually by watching a comedy or singing along to a Nirvana song.

Historical moment or event you'd like to witness

The AlexNet breakthrough in 2012.

I want to have witnessed how a technique known for decades, thanks to engineering optimisations and hardware improvements, beat the state of the art and changed the entire direction of the field of artificial intelligence.

Extracurricular activity, job, or family responsibility

I cycle almost every evening to calm my mind. I live in a rural area, so there are many trails around my house that I love to ride on, with my favourite spot being a peaceful road on top of a sluice with fog around.

Five things that are important to you

Yummy food, my fountain pen collection, my audio equipment, my grizzly teddy bear, and watching The Simpsons.

Short Essays

Idea or experience that makes you excited about learning

Through programming, I learnt how to perform large-scale computations on large datasets. This led me to explore a field that I was interested in: quantitative forecasting. I love the ability to quantify the future, as it feels like a superpower, especially when the predictions come true. The fantastic part about forecasting is that you can ask the question, "What is likely to happen if I do this?", allowing it to be used for decision-making. When I started using this, I realised that planning could be anticipatory rather than reactive.

When I was preparing for the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), I used this technique extensively. I used past data to predict high-probability topics, focusing my preparation in areas where I lagged. I also learnt to predict which problems to focus my time on during contests to maximise my score. It thrilled me how hidden patterns could be identified even in tricky competitions. I even tried to develop a new metric to analyse IOI performance, which was dependent on the relative performance of others and the target.

This technique has taught me how math and statistics, when applied with computers, can model real-world phenomena, such as sports competitions and financial markets. I am now excited to

learn how it can be applied to a more complex paradigm: human behaviour. Specifically, I want to develop models which can predict student learning curves and improve educational interventions.

Note to future roommate

Hi roommate! If I am not in the room, I am probably out exploring the campus food. On that topic, I am always up for trying new food and ordering unfamiliar and exotic dishes, even if they are a gamble. I once tried ten different brands of packaged noodles to find the spiciest and tastiest. Do you want to join me in exploring the city and trying out some new stuff this weekend?

Playing board and card games is my favourite way to spend time with my friends. My favourite one is Ticket To Ride. I enjoy studying a game in depth by trying to find its exploits, but never at the expense of fun. I would love to play some of them with you! They are simple to learn, by the way.

But when I am alone, I love to watch lighthearted comedy movies and shows. I particularly like The Simpsons. It affects the way I think, making me not take everything to heart and dwell too long on negativity. When a day goes bad, I step back, almost as if watching a scene unfold.

Looking forward to hanging out with you and having nights where we order out and play games while joking around.

Life experiences, interests and character that would help you make a distinctive contribution to Stanford

I grew up in an ivory tower, a modern university campus with some of the best infrastructure in the country, situated in the middle of a village in a tier-2 city. Every day, I went through the gate, going from a multicultural hub to people speaking exclusively in the regional language.

I have grown up observing this difference, comparing dinner-table debates over labour law to street vendors and daily wagers who defy those ideals. I would contribute to Stanford by challenging oversimplified arguments in classroom discussions and helping peers ground policy, technology, and social debates in reality. For instance, in a discussion on public health failures, I pointed out that, rather than illiteracy, charlatans were more accessible and trustworthy to people living in villages, whereas doctors were strangers living far away.

At Stanford, I want to help my peers and myself design solutions for the complex world we live in. I will be the one who asks, "Will this work in the real world?" For example, I noticed that the people living in the village were unable to access the judicial system because judgments were issued in English, a language they did not understand. Moreover, the existing AI translation systems did not perform well on the judgments. Therefore, I decided to research this and created a new system for translating judgments into vernacular languages. At Stanford, I want to keep building systems that survive outside the gate.

Additional Background

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have No

attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action?

Affirmations

I confirm that I understand and agree to uphold the spirit and letter of the Stanford Honor Code and Fundamental Standard.

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW YOUR OFFER OF ADMISSION IF: 1) you show a significant drop in academic performance or fail to graduate; 2) there has been a misrepresentation in the application process; 3) we learn that you have engaged in behavior prior to the first day of enrolled attendance that indicates a serious lack of judgment or integrity; 4) you alter your class/course schedule without prior approval from the Office of Undergraduate Admission; or 5) you are holding a place, past May 1, in the freshman class of a college other than Stanford. Further, Stanford reserves the right to require the

I certify that the information submitted in these application materials is current, complete and correct, and is my own work. I further understand and agree to the terms of the Stanford application instructions as posted at admission.stanford.edu, or as stated above, including Stanford's policies on the submission of the credentials noted above.

applicant to provide additional information (and/or authorization for the release of information) about any such matter. Stanford also reserves the right in perpetuity to investigate the authenticity, accuracy, and authorship of materials submitted, information provided, and assertions made in connection with the application.

Mobile Phone Contact

I understand that those involved in the Stanford admission process may need to contact me at a mobile number provided in the Common App.

CONSENT TO PRIVACY POLICY By submitting this application, I hereby consent to Stanford University's collection and processing of any sensitive personal data contained in my application to evaluate my application for the other purposes described in Stanford University's Online Privacy, Offline Privacy Policy, and the Privacy Notice for Admissions and Financial Aid which can be found at privacy.stanford.edu.

I hereby consent to Stanford University's collection and processing of any sensitive personal data contained in my application.

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: <http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.