

[Interviewer] Okay, so you can start by introducing yourself.

[Guillermo] Yeah. Um, my name is Guillermo. I am part of the class of 2020 and I'm majoring in Management Science and Engineering with a concentration in finance and decision.

[Interviewer] So the first question is, can you tell me a little bit about your background and where did you grow up?

[Guillermo] Yeah. Um, so I'm from Chicago. I grew up on the West side of Chicago in a community called Little Village.

[Guillermo] Little Village is a predominantly Mexican immigrant community. My parents are both immigrants from Mexico, the middle child of three brothers. Um, so my brother, my older brother is two years older than me. And then my younger brother is two years younger than me. Um, and I'm going to be the first one in my family to graduate college.

[Interviewer] That's awesome. Congratulations. So the next question is how did you become interested in engineering?

[Guillermo] Yeah, so, um, when my mom enrolled me in school for the first time, uh, she pulled me in it, English only classes. So, um, but in the beginning I always struggled with English, but I was pretty good with math. Math made sense, like numbers just made sense to me. And I developed a passion for math and in high school, I expanded my passion to learn more about science. So I became more passionate about science in high school, and I decided to synthesize both of those passions and decided that engineering was a field that incorporated both of those very well. And I thought that I would succeed in that field.

[Interviewer] The next question is, can you tell us a bit about your area of concentration and why you chose it?

[Guillermo] Yeah, so financing decision, um, I chose that area because I was always intimidated by finance. Like I always heard about like the stock market and other finance terms that I've never really understood. And I always felt just so intimidated by it. And I felt that by being able to go into that concentration, I will develop the knowledge to not feel intimidated by that field, but also, um, just learning how people make decisions, uh, the type of framework or the methodology that people have to go through to make a decision. I thought that was really important, especially because I see myself being in a management position in the future at a company and just understanding how companies make decisions or individuals make decisions. I thought that was pretty important. So, um, yeah, I felt that that was the best concentration for me.

[Interviewer] I guess the next question is what are your career plans for after Stanford and how did you decide on them?

[Guillermo] Yeah, so I'll be working full time and McMaster-Carr supply company here in Chicago. Um, I'll be in their management development training program. And so the way I went about deciding that is at, I, you know, I spent four years in the classroom and I wanted to apply a lot of the knowledge that I learned at Stanford, so real life experiences or, or a company that I'm working at. Um, and so I felt that it was best for me to go straight from undergrad to the workforce. And I'm also looking into pursuing an MBA. So I wanted to experience an industry and an industry. And also just to get a better idea of what working in a certain industry will be like, you know, I'm first gen, I really don't know if this is an industry that I want to be in. And so I felt that it was important to get that experience early on and especially the program that I'm going to be in, I'll be managing people. So getting their management experience early on, well, let me know if I do want to go into management.

[Interviewer] I think that's a smart plan. So the next question is what most excites you about your future?

[Guillermo] Yeah. Um, I think just the fact that I'm going to keep learning and just experiencing new things. Um, before going to Stanford, I spent most of my life here in Chicago, never really got to travel. Um, you know, I was surrounded by people that look like me, talk like me, and it was not until Stanford, that I was able to kind of like broaden the scope of what the world is to me. And, um, and I think I'm just looking forward to that. I'm looking forward to traveling more, I'm looking forward to meeting new people. I think that that's been one of my favorite experiences at Stanford. Um, and I know that, uh, well the Stanford degree that those opportunities will keep opening up more for me. Yeah. Just being a Stanford. I was able to go to like Tanzania and South Africa and also the Philippines and, you know, for a kid that grew up in the West side of Chicago to be able to venture outside of, like, you know, Chicago's boundaries. I think that was a lot that meant a lot to me. And I know that I continue to learn more and, and meet other people and yeah.

[Interviewer] Yeah, so you're just expanding on that. So the next question is what advice do you have for future students and how can they make the best use of their time in MS&E and at Stanford?

[Guillermo] Yeah, I think, um, the best advice I have for students is to definitely not be intimidated by, um, MS&E, uh, to take as many courses as they want. So take courses outside of the concentration too. Like if you're a financing decision. Yeah. You obviously, you have to take your courses there, but take courses outside of MS&E and try to find ways in which you can incorporate those into MS&E too. So a lot of my favorite classes were in OTP too. So learn about organizations, learning about management, about essentially how people work in the workplace. I think those are some of my favorite classes too. So do not feel that, you know, because you're focusing on one concentration, you have to take most of your classes in that concentration, just try to expand, but also see how all the classes kind of connect. Um, to start getting a better idea of what MS&E is, and also try to build relationships with the MS&E professors. I think that's one of the things that I was most intimidated about honestly. Um, but you'll realize that some of the professors are very friendly, um, and they very much want to see you succeed and they're invested in you. Um, and then they're invested in the program too.

[Interviewer] So were you able to build a relationship with a few of the professors then?

[Guillermo] Yeah, yeah, I think, um, so I was able to build a really good relationship with Pamela Hinds and the reason why is, cause I took her MS&E 180 with her and she also was a faculty in residence when I studied abroad in South Africa. So I did an independent study with her and took another MS&E class with her. And so we were able to develop a pretty cool... close relationship, just cause she had me in like three of her classes.

[Interviewer] That's great. So the next question is what will you miss most about Stanford and the Bay area?

[Guillermo] Yeah, I think just, you know, coming from Chicago, just the California sun is different. Um, the weather is different and just Stanford's campus is just so beautiful. It's one of the reasons why I chose to go to Stanford and yeah, I'll miss the palm trees, the fountains, and also just the people, the people that I've met in the Bay area and met at Stanford that made Stanford feel like home and the bay area too. Um, I think I'll miss all those things.

[Interviewer] Okay. So, um, before we end this, is there anything else that you wanted to add?

[Guillermo] Yeah, I think, you know, um, I think for me, you know being a Latino in engineering, it can be very discouraging. They'll sometimes be like the only one in the room or be one of the few in the room. I think, you know, for students that are students of color, Latino students, they should feel that their place in the classrooms that they're in, whether they're MS&E or not are very much valid and their merit is valid and that they should not feel that they don't belong there, that they very much could bring a lot to the table. And to also not be scared to not know what's going on, because I think when I came to Stanford, oftentimes a lot of my peers knew what was going on in the classes because they had prior experience, whether it was working in internships or the high schools that they went to. I think we're all there to learn. And I think you could also learn by, you know, being in the classroom, but learn from your peers too. Um, yeah.