

### Cornell 2005 - No. 3

*Complete this essay if there is other information you would like to add regarding your candidacy. For instance, if you believe one or more aspects of your application (e.g., undergraduate GPA or test scores) do(es) not accurately reflect your potential for success at the Johnson School. (400 words)*

The one part of my record that might warrant an explanation is the relatively mediocre academic performance in my Master's Degree studies at the University of Illinois. It stands in sharp contrast to the near perfect grades that I have earned in each of the four years of college, which fairly represent my ability to consistently perform at the top of the class.

In graduate school, although I was able to maintain a solid GPA at first, a variety of circumstances contributed to a dismal couple of semesters in my second year. When the funding for my thesis research suddenly ran out, I had to take upon parallel responsibilities as a Teaching Assistant at the Physics Department, conducting laboratory experiments in Waves Physics and Quantum Mechanics. While I genuinely enjoyed teaching and was consistently rated as "excellent" by students, I still had to continue actively working on my thesis on a daily basis.

At the same time, we were starting to actively pursue our start-up business, BeShop.com, which also required a lot of dedication and countless hours of self-motivated efforts. Many of my evenings were divided between studying for my Engineering classes and spending time at the library, reading books on entrepreneurship and refining our business plan.

In other words, in addition to taking the demanding classes required for my degree, I had to handle a triple load of other responsibilities which, unfortunately, took priority at least some of the time.