

**Yale 2005 - No. 3**

*If any aspect of your candidacy needs further explanation, please provide any additional information that you would like the Admissions Committee to consider. (200 words maximum.)*

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. While I genuinely enjoyed teaching and was consistently rated as "excellent" by students, I 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 required a lot of dedication and countless hours of self-motivated efforts.

In other words, in addition to taking these demanding classes, I also had to handle a triple load of other responsibilities, which made an impact on my academic performance.