

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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"My hometown is Mission, Texas, which is close to McAllen in the southern part of the state. While math was the subject that I felt I was strongest in during high school. When it came time for me to consider college, I did not expect to major in mathematics in college. I chose The University of Texas at Austin because it is fairly close to my hometown--my mother liked that. I also knew that its programs were nationally ranked. What really helped be decide on participating in the University's Outreach Program. Although no one in my family or my neighborhood went to UT-Austin, I liked what I saw on my campus visit. So I started at the University as an Electrical Engineering major, thinking that I might change my major to Business.

During my freshman and sophomore years, I learned that to enroll in the School of Business at UT-Austin I needed about a 3.6 GPA. Business is one of the most popular, and competitive majors to get into. My GPA in Electrical Engineering, another very competitive major, was about a 3.2 GPA. So at the end of my sophomore year I began thinking about my options and choices. Computer Science had always been a hobby, and I continued to be interested in it. At about the same time, I realized that a career as an engineer was probably not something that I wanted to pursue after all. I wanted a major that was flexible and would allow me to continue studying computer science. When I learned that all of the mathematics and calculus-based physics coursework that I had already taken would count toward a major in mathematics, I decided that the B.S. degree in mathematics was for me. I declared my major in mathematics in the summer after my sophomore year and continued studying computer science--I've almost got a minor in CS. In August 2005, I completed my degree from the University of Texas at Austin in mathematics.

This year (2005-06) I've been working full-time at the Dana Center for Mathematics and Science helping complete Algebra materials for their large-scale high school projects. I'm in the process of preparing my applications for graduate study for 2006-2007, and UT-San Antonio is my first choice for my doctoral program."