

Application to University of Utah Computer Science

Personal Statement

I began my master's in 1988 through BYU and immersed myself in the theory of computer science. I enjoyed the opportunities to teach and research different aspects of computation and even used some of the concepts of proof of correctness in my thesis. I completed this degree while I worked for Hewlett Packard in 1990. Since that time, I have worked in the industry for several technical businesses gaining practical experience that has helped me balance the theory with practice.

This balance has helped me reach out to other technology experts and work with them to solidify their ideas into a workable and effective tool for developers or testers. The collaboration made the results of the work more relevant to the industry while providing the longevity which return-on-investment demands. Similarly, I mentored individuals and groups towards understanding the usefulness of the science while equipping them with additional skills to better their careers. I have taught and constructed several courses in computer science throughout my career. The experiences have always reinforced how much I enjoy helping people comprehend and apply the concepts surrounding computers.

Additionally, research has been an integral part of my professional development. My last three jobs have involved knowing what is happening in the field and predicting the trends that may affect the companies. Following trade, professional, and academic journals is what I consider an important part of being a technology leader. I have specialized in languages/compilers/translators, operating systems, and embedded systems. I am a published expert in IPv4/IPv6 network programming, and I have invented processes and have authored a patent.

I would like to move to the next step and complete a doctorate in computer science. My history in teaching, research, and publishing will blend well with this degree and open doors to teach as a professor in a university.

The University of Utah School of Computing has a good reputation and has produced significant contributors to the field. A PhD degree from your school will avail opportunities for me and let me contribute more effectively than I have in the past.

Sean Walton