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I constantly analyze the code behind technology. Each time I use a device or play a video game, I imagine the algorithms that make it work and the people that designed the programs. I want to be one of those people. The SURF Program combines my passion for information technology with my interest in research and desire to gain insight into the cutting-edge technologies of the future.

I would like to work in the Information Technology Lab because of your research concerning cyber and network security. I am part of the Cyber Defense Team at UMBC, which has fueled my curiosity and provided me with relevant experience. At team meetings, I have been working with experienced students that have enlightened me with their knowledge about networks and the infiltration of systems, among other things. The team will be competing in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition this year. Your research also involves software engineering and software quality testing which is what I foresee myself working on in my career. Particularly, the Automated Combinatorial Testing for Software (ACTS) project appeals to me because I've witnessed the consequences of vulnerabilities in a system and I understand the importance of reliable software.

My second lab choice is the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology because I'm intrigued by the lab's efforts to use nanomaterials to efficiently convert and store energy. I have studied the process of energy conversion on a cellular level and I am greatly concerned by the attempts to find an alternative energy source that is both sustainable and non-polluting.

As a participant in SURF, I will contribute my programming experience in C++, Java, and Python, in addition to my knowledge about cyber and network

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security and biotechnology. I am extremely hardworking and cannot rest until I find a solution to a problem. I'll often spend hours on a programming project without even realizing it because I'm so captivated by making the program work.

It would be a privilege to work with professional researchers and to aid in finding solutions to real-world problems that could have vast impacts on the world. Also, it would be an invaluable part of the experience to build relationships with other students that have similar interests and can share their own enriching experiences. Having this opportunity would inspire me to continue the research that I work on and to choose research as a career.

I will complete my Master's degree in Computer Science within five years at UMBC and hope to continue my education and earn a Ph.D. while gaining relevant experience in the workplace. This program aligns with my goals as a student and my future career in the field.