Application for Graduate Admission

Supplementary Application – Human-Computer Interaction (HCIM)

This section describes the content that HCIM students should cover as a part of their required Statement of Purpose and provides details about the required file uploads of the work products discussed.

Applicants must address ONE or TWO of the prompts below *within* the required Statement of Purpose.

As a separate step, applicants must then upload the specific work products associated with the ONE or TWO selected prompts they discuss to the Supplementary Application field.

For our Fall 2020 class, we seek to admit a diverse group of students with varying perspectives and strengths in the areas of technology, social science, and design. We don't expect any applicant to be equally strong in all areas. You will use part of the required Statement of Purpose in a focused way to showcase your particular strengths and reflect on how they connect with your understanding of HCI. As part of the Statement of Purpose (1,000 to 2,000 words), you are asked to describe your reasons for studying at UMCP and your past work. When describing your past work, you must respond to ONE or TWO of the following three prompts and explain how it illustrates your interests and shows your potential for a career in HCI or UX. In the rest of your Statement, you are free to choose what to discuss and how to organize it, within the general guidelines for the Statement of Purpose.

Each of the prompts asks you to provide access to the work products that you discuss. You can do this by uploading a PDF as a Supplemental File or by providing a link to an online portfolio, web site, or Github repository (which must NOT be password-protected) as a Supplemental File. If you worked as part of a team or group, you must explain what your contribution was, e.g., what parts of the work product you personally produced.

Prompts - Choose ONE or TWO of the following prompts to discuss within your Statement of Purpose in relation to your past work:

1. Prospective HCI students typically have some level of interest in interaction or visual design. You may have experience creating sketches, diagrams, workflows, mock-ups, or prototypes for websites, mobile apps, or other product designs. Please describe an example of work you did in this area. Describe your process, major elements of the design and important design decisions and their rationale.

2. The study of human-computer interaction and user experience is interdisciplinary and draws on a variety of fields, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, education, and information science to ask and answer questions about people and technology. Select and describe an example of a specific situation in which you formulated a question and applied quantitative and/or qualitative methods to collect and analyze relevant data. This could be an academic research project, or it could be product evaluation or user testing. Describe your process and major findings. *Note: Please do not include market research.

3. Prospective HCI students often have some level of technical experience building front-end user interfaces and/or back-end programming. This may include:
   a. Front-end user interfaces - e.g., HTML/CSS/JavaScript, Swift, Java, etc.
   b. Back-end programming - e.g., application servers, databases, search engines, etc.
   c. Content management systems, e.g., Drupal, Joomla, WordPress, etc.

Please help us understand your technical experience and problem-solving approaches by describing a technical project or assignment. Describe the objective, your approach, challenges and what you produced. For your example you can draw on a course assignment or a professional or personal project.