Over the next year I plan on completing a triple major in Engineering Physics, Philosophy, and Mathematics. Additionally, I intend to round out my scientific education with additional courses in biology, fluid mechanics, and graduate level physics. Engineering Physics is at once broad, spanning three departments, and in depth and rigorous, featuring core theoretical courses from those departments. For that reason, it itself is pre-approved for B.Phil. candidacy, and it is certainly the best undergraduate major at Pitt for the graduate studies I intend to pursue. Supplemented with selected other courses from other departments, it provides a synoptic view of current applied physical science. In particular, I took such courses as Quantum Mechanics I and II, Semiconductor Device Theory, Energetics I and II, and graduate level statistical mechanics, mechanics, Materials Science I and II, and so on.

I have no immediate plans to extend my formal education in philosophy, but I think my undergraduate philosophical education will prove valuable whatever line of work I find myself. Taking philosophy courses at Pitt sharpened my analytical and writing skills and, more importantly, contributed significantly to the development of my general intellectual orientation. I will continue to read and think about philosophy, of course. I am interested in both analytic and continental philosophy, and specific interests include ancient philosophy and virtue theory, Heidegger and phenomenology, Marx and his various epigones (as various as Lukacs and G. A. Cohen), the rise and fall of logical positivism, and contemporary philosophy of mind. I have taken or will take courses on much of the preceding. At some point, I also wish to learn more about post-Kantian German Idealism (particularly Hegel), American pragmatism, and recent analytic philosophy. As the diversity of these topics may suggest, I am not at the point in my philosophical education at which I have really specialized in anything, and I do not anticipate arriving at that point very soon.

Finally, I primarily see mathematics as a toolbox for physical theory. While doing mathematics certainly can be intrinsically satisfying, I am most interested in physics and opted to take the math courses that were most nearly immediately useful for it. These courses include complex analysis, abstract algebra, partial differential equations, graph theory, et al.