

# Curriculum Vitae of Failures

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## Purpose

Inspired by Johannes Haushofer's CV of Failures, this document records the academic, professional, and personal setbacks that have shaped my journey. The goal is to highlight that behind every success lies a trail of unseen rejections and missed opportunities.

You may find that the failure CV is rather empty - and you're right! I haven't really tried a lot until very recently. Over the next few years, I look forward to fill this CV up with a lot more content-while failure hurts, it's better than not taking any shots at all.

## Degree Programs I Did Not Get Into

- PhD positions, CMU, UMass Amherst, GaTech, Columbia, Cornell, UIUC, Princeton, UVA (2025)
- MS positons, UMass Amherst, Gatech, UCSD , UIUC (2022, 2023)
- a bunch of undergraduate institutions...(2018)

## Grants I Did Not Receive

- Amazon Trusted AI Challenge winner/runner-up award (2025)
- EMNLP Volunteer grants (2023)
- LREC-COLING volunteer grant (2024)

## Papers Rejected

Note: some of these initial rejections eventually led to acceptances after one or multiple resubmissions.

- Vector controlled ethical reasoning with language models - Rejected from BlackBoxNLP (2024), project subsequently stalled.

- NormAd – Withdrawn from COLM, subsequently rejected from EMNLP (2024).
- Ethical reasoning – Rejected from ACL (2023).
- Jailbreak paradox – Rejected from EMNLP (2024).
- Less is Fed More - Rejected from ACL (2024).
- Multilingual Punctuation Restoration for speech transcripts - Rejected from INTERSPEECH (2022).

## Other Failures

- Almost all of my rejected internship positions out of 200+ applications (2024)
- TikTok MLE job offer rejected after 4 rounds of interviews (2024).
- Rejected from the MATS Summer School (2025).
- Rejected from MSR-India (2022) before getting accepted into a different team.
- Full time positions (Google, Uber, D.E. Shaw, Amazon...) (2022)
- Summer internship positions (Google, JPMC, Microsoft, Uber, Salesforce, Cisco, Paypal, ...) (2021)

## Reflection

While none of these failures made it onto my standard CV, each one contributed to personal growth, resilience, and redirected focus. This document serves to remind myself, and others, that setbacks are part of every meaningful career.