

INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATIONS



Nomaan Shaikh

Home Country: India

Major: M.S. Computer Science

Employed By: **Google**

Position: Software Engineer

What's bolder than getting your master's degree in a country other than your own? Continuing to push yourself even further out of your comfort zone once you're there! "I was a little shy before I came to the U.S.," notes Nomaan, but once he made the decision to study in the U.S., he made a commitment to himself to, "Have an open mind, be ready to learn many new things, and to laugh at mistakes and move on." His healthy mindset, hard work, and strategic decision making have resulted in an exceptional job at Google and the ability to adapt to any situation.

The choice to attend Chico State was an easy one for Nomaan. Family and friends, who are Chico State alumni, highly recommended the Computer Science program and shared their love of the campus and community with him. But, as it is with all significant transitions, life in the U.S. was difficult at first. As a strategy to adjusting, Nomaan sought out academic and social support. "I used the English as a Second Language Support Service to help with my language skills and I visited my professors during their office hours." He also joined clubs like the Indian Student Association and CALMENA. Like Nomaan, the most successful students strive for balance between their school and social lives. "Meeting people from different places and sharing ideas and experiences with them has given me a broader view of the world and shown me how much more there is to explore." It's who you meet and what you do outside of the classroom that makes your life as an international student special and memorable.

Nomaan's dream job is to own his own tech company so that he can, "Bring the science fiction world from movies and books into reality." This risk-taking, futuristic, entrepreneurial mentality guided him during his time at Chico State. Nomaan keenly understood that getting involved on-campus, joining clubs, becoming an international student ambassador, and getting on-campus jobs were all actions that would not only help him feel more at home and connected to Chico, but were literally resume building activities. For international students, having good language and culture skills are critical for competing in the U.S. job market after graduation.

Want to have an amazing American college experience and make yourself competitive in the U.S. job market? Follow in Nomaan's footsteps!