What is BlueSky Institute looking for in an applicant?

- **Professional maturity:** Because this is an accelerated work-based learning program that can end with a job offer, students must demonstrate advanced maturity for someone their age.
- **Ability to self-assess and seek support:** Students must be self-reflective and have strong instincts on when they need to seek support. Though we will have indicators to assess how a student is doing in the program, we will not always have a lens into how a student is feeling; students need to illustrate that they can/will seek help when needed.
- **Enthusiasm for the field:** We are asking students to make a career decision relatively early in their lives; as such, they need to demonstrate significant enthusiasm for the field.
- **Interpersonal skills/relationship building:** Because the BlueSky Institute program will follow a cohort model where teamwork will be valued/necessary, we need students to demonstrate an ability to build and maintain strong relationships.
- **Demonstrated interest in and ability to lead:** We want a BlueSky Institute student to, one day, contribute to and lead projects and programs as needed. As such, students must have an interest in leading others.
- **Persistence through adversity:** Students will be asked to complete 4 years of coursework in 24-27 months; we anticipate this to be incredibly challenging and, as such, students must have a record of persistence through adversity (pushing through/successfully navigating challenges to reach goals).

1. **Why do you want to pursue an accelerated degree in computing through the BlueSky Institute?** (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned above.) (1 - 2 paragraphs)

2. **Tell us about a time you overcame a challenge – how did you identify and address the issue/situation? What was the outcome and what did you learn from the experience?** (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned above.) (1 - 2 paragraphs)

3. **Why should we choose you?** (Please keep in mind the personal qualities and skills mentioned above.) (1 - 2 paragraphs)