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This is my “CV of failures”, inspired by an article in Nature by Melanie I. Stefan, as well as by similar examples from other researchers and professors.

Professional failure summary

Throughout my undergraduate, master’s, and early Ph.D. studies, I explored a diverse set of research directions. Many of these efforts did not lead to successful outcomes, including projects in network security, electronic design automation (EDA), 3D modeling, simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM), robotic manipulation, explainable AI, neural architecture search (NAS), and image generation.

Degree programs I failed to get into

Ph.D. (attempted)

- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Computer Science, ETH Zürich
- Computer Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

B.S. (attempted)

- General Admission, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
- Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan University (NTU)
- Computer Science, National Taiwan University (NTU)
- Electrical Engineering, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)
- Computer Science, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)
- Electrical Engineering, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU)

Industrial positions I failed to get

- As a Ph.D. graduate from The University of Texas at Austin, I was rejected by **over 20 companies** (across **more than 60 positions**), including Google, Apple, Amazon, AMD, Microsoft, DeepMind, xAI, OpenAI, and several other companies in the United States.
- During my Ph.D., I applied for internships at several companies in the United States, including Google, NVIDIA, Microsoft, Meta, AMD, and Arm, but was not selected.
- As an M.S. graduate from National Taiwan University (NTU), I was rejected by Google, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Qualcomm, as well as several well-known companies and their Taiwan-based branches.
- During my undergraduate and M.S. studies, I applied for internships at Google, Microsoft, HTC, MediaTek, and several other companies with local branches in Taiwan, but was not selected.

Paper submission rejected

- 2024 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
- 2024 International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)
- 2024 Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)

- 2022 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
- 2019 International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)
- 2019 Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)
- 2018 European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)
- 2018 Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)

Honors and awards I failed to get

- 2026 CPAL Rising Stars Award
- 2025 UT Continuing Fellowship
- 2025 Amazon AI Ph.D. Fellowship
- 2024-2025 NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship
- 2023-2024 NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship
- 2024 Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship
- 2023 Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship
- 2023 UT Austin-Amazon Science Hub Fellowship

Miscellaneous

- I generally struggle with paper-based exams; for example, I received grades of B and B- in Probability and Convex Optimization at UT
- TOEFL performance: I never scored above 100 on the TOEFL and did not achieve a speaking score above 20
- I chose not to take the GRE during my Ph.D. applications
- Physical health setback: I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2016 and underwent a total thyroidectomy