Adaeze Nwosu - Stanford GSB MBA application

Houston, TX · adaeze.nwosu.test@example.com Applying to: Stanford Graduate School of Business MBA, 2026-27

This is a fictional applicant written for this sample. Her employers, nonprofit and recommenders are invented.

Program and round

- Full-time MBA, Class of 2029. Round 2.

Education

- **Georgia Institute of Technology** - BS Industrial Engineering, May 2022. GPA 3.42.
- Fall 2019 GPA 2.71 (see Additional information).
- Relevant courses: Engineering Economy (A), Optimization (A-), Stochastic Processes (B), Financial Accounting (B+), Energy Systems Analysis (A).

Test

- GMAT Focus Edition, September 2026: 655 (Quantitative 82, Verbal 85, Data Insights 80). Second sitting. The first, in June 2026, was 595.

Resume

BRAZOS SOLAR WORKS - Houston, TX (Jul 2022 - present) *Developer of utility-scale solar and battery storage. 11 operating projects (1.4 GW), about 210 employees.*

Senior Project Manager, Development (Jan 2025 - present)

- Lead development of 3 projects (520 MW total) from land control through financing. I manage a team of 4: 2 engineers, 1 land analyst and 1 permitting coordinator.
- Recovered Pecan Bayou Solar (180 MW, Angelina County, TX) after county commissioners voted 3-2 against its tax abatement in March 2025. Ran 14 community meetings and negotiated a local-hiring pledge for 60 construction jobs. The abatement passed in November 2025, eight months late, and the project reached financial close of $212M in August 2026.
- Recommended abandoning the Cypress Draw site after a new floodplain survey. We wrote off $340K in development spend and avoided an estimated $6M in drainage work.
- Settled a pile-foundation dispute between our civil contractor and our engineering lead with a 40-pile field load test. The test cost $85K and the resulting redesign saved $1.3M.

Project Engineer (Jul 2022 - Dec 2024)

- Managed grid-connection (interconnection) studies with ERCOT, the Texas grid operator, for 9 projects.
- Built a Python model that tracks queue deadlines and deposits; the team has missed no filing deadline since 2023.
- Onboarded 2 new engineers and supervised 3 summer interns.

LONE STAR GRID SERVICES - Austin, TX Operations Intern, Summer 2021. Analyzed outage data from Winter Storm Uri for a regional utility consultancy.

ADDITIONAL

- Volunteer math tutor, Third Ward Homework House, Houston (2023 - present).
- Languages: English (native), Igbo (conversational).
- Skills: Python, SQL, Excel project finance models.
- Interests: half marathons (Houston Half, 2:14), a monthly Nollywood film club I started with coworkers.

Activities

1. **Volunteer math tutor, later lead tutor, Third Ward Homework House** (2023 - present; 3 hours a week, Saturdays). I tutor 7th and 8th graders in pre-algebra. Since 2025 I have planned lessons for 6 volunteer tutors. Eleven of my 14 students in 2025-26 passed the state math test, compared with 6 of 13 the year before.
2. **Co-founder, Brazos Women in Engineering lunch series** (2023 - present; about 2 hours a month). A monthly lunch where engineers present their projects to each other. It has grown from 5 regulars to 31.

Optional short answers (up to 1,500 characters each)

Tell us about a time you made a meaningful contribution to others.

In 2024 I was the project engineer on Pecan Bayou. I argued for an early abatement vote so we could hold our construction slot, and my manager agreed. We had held one community meeting. At the hearing, a cattle rancher named Mr. Holcomb said nobody from Brazos had knocked on his door, and the vote failed 3-2. It was my push that cost us.

When I took over the project in 2025, I asked to start with the people who had opposed us. Over 14 meetings, in churches and a feed store, I heard two concerns: glare on a county road and no local jobs. We moved 40 acres of panels back 300 feet from the road. I then negotiated the local-hiring pledge with our contractor, who first said it would add 4% to labor cost. It came in at 1.5%. Mr. Holcomb spoke in favor at the second hearing.

Tell us about a time you helped someone grow.

Luis Ortega joined us in 2023 straight from Texas A&M. In his third month he missed an ERCOT study deposit by two days, and the project nearly lost its queue position. My director wanted him moved off interconnection work. I asked for six weeks to work with him instead. I told Luis, "The miss is the

system's fault and mine; the next one would be yours." We built the deadline tracker together, and he now presents queue status to our VP every month. He was promoted in 2025.

Essay A: What matters most to you, and why?

During Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, my family's house in Alief had no power for four days. My father, who repairs generators, spent those days fixing neighbors' machines in our driveway by headlamp. On the third night he told me that he had done the same thing in Enugu in 1994, for the same reason: the grid had failed.

What matters most to me is electricity that people can count on. I care less about electricity in the abstract than about the kind a small business owner can build a payroll on. My uncle runs a plastics workshop in Aba, Nigeria, with 22 employees. He spends nearly a third of his revenue on diesel because grid power arrives perhaps nine hours a day.

I did not always see my work this way. At Brazos I first loved the engineering puzzle of interconnection studies and load flows. Pecan Bayou changed that. When the abatement vote failed, I understood that a project is not built by engineers alone. It is built when a rancher, a county judge and a contractor each decide to trust it. I had treated the community as a step to clear. The eight months I spent winning them back taught me more than any study.

The Cypress Draw decision taught me the other half. Recommending that we walk away from $340K of work was the hardest memo I have written, because the project was mine. But honesty about risk is part of reliability, too.

I want to build a company that finances and operates solar-plus-storage systems for small manufacturers in Nigeria like my uncle's. Brazos has taught me development, but not how to raise capital, price risk in naira or build a company from nothing.

Essay B: Why Stanford?

I need the general-management and startup skills I lack, and I need them now. I have run development at Brazos for two years, and battery costs have fallen enough to make my uncle's case a business rather than a charity. I want Startup Garage to test the model with real customers, and I want courses at the Doerr School of Sustainability for energy policy. Stanford Seed's work with African entrepreneurs is the network I want to learn from. At Admit Weekend conversations with alumni, I was struck by how often people said they had changed their plans because a classmate had pushed back on them. I want classmates who will push back on mine.

Recommenders

1. **Dana Whitfield** - Vice President of Development, Brazos Solar Works (current supervisor since 2025).
2. **Teresa Galván** - Director of Engineering, Brazos Solar Works (my supervisor from 2022 to 2024).

Additional information

In fall 2019 my father had spinal surgery and could not work for four months. I worked 25 hours a week at a Home Depot in Atlanta to help cover the mortgage, and my grades fell to a 2.71. Every other semester was 3.3 or above.