Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Program Manager:

In one line, my duty is to bring order to chaos. I anticipate how the traffic is growing in different regions of the world and try to ensure Google is ready to face any kind of unexpected circumstance (like natural disasters, world events, COVID, etc). I work with the product teams to incorporate launches into the plans for the growth of machines inside the data centers. I also work with the corporate finance team to ensure business growth aligns with revenue.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Patience, juggling, and negotiation are the three most important skills for my role. Patience because there is no one answer to the problems I solve every day. There are tons of them and choosing the best one amongst them requires me to think through the problem. Juggling because, at a given point in time, there are dozens of ongoing projects. Effectively managing them requires time management, tolerance, focus, concentration, and planning. Negotiation as I find myself in difficult situations every day and convincing stakeholders is a unique skill that can let things fall how you want them to be.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Computer Science and Engineering?

Majoring in Computer Science does not mean you have to be a Software Engineer. There are a lot of positions out there that require extensive technical knowledge but not coding. Think out of the box, participate in clubs and organizations on campus. Talk to people and be curious!