

Personal Statement Essays Engineering Major - Veteran

Education and Career Goals*

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals; if undecided, state what you hope to gain from the college experience.

My goal is to become a Biomedical Engineer in order to help severely injured people like myself with the necessary equipment that they need to improve the quality of their lives. In order to be a competent Biomedical Engineer, I need to obtain my Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering. However, for what I hope to accomplish in this profession, I will be required to receive a master's or even a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering. After completion of my transfer requirements at MiraCosta College, I wish to transfer to UCSD or John Hopkins University to complete my Biomedical Engineering degree.

Extracurricular Activities*

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; for example, clubs, organizations, volunteer service, and sports activities. If applicable, describe your employment experience and how many hours you work per week. Do your activities relate to your education or career objective?

My two children compel me to always be an example of hard work and dedication, while always keeping my Navy core values at heart: honor, courage, and commitment. For this reason, along with attending school and being a math tutor at MiraCosta, I participate every day with training for competing in the Paralympics, and riding my tricycle through Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF), which is a 501C3 non-profit organization that helps enable physically disabled people to live an active lifestyle. I feel participating in CAF correlates greatly with my career objective because of the first hand contact with the wide variety of disabilities our heroes, among some, are suffering from. Along these lines, I feel enormously confident that I possess the skills and knowledge to evaluate specifically what improvements to make on which appliances to assist the heroes to whom we all owe our freedom to.

Other Information about yourself*

Please provide information you would like to share about yourself including accomplishments you are proud of, hardships or challenges you overcame in your life, scholarships and/or honors you received. Most important, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

Prior to my scheduled deployment to Afghanistan, I was in a severe vehicular accident which occurred in the line of duty. This took place while training with my Navy's combat team as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician, whereby I was tasked to dispose of ordnance on the ground and under the water. In this traumatic accident, I broke my neck in four places and every bone in my left arm. Also, I lost six inches of bone from my right leg, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other injuries I wish to only speak of in person due to the intimate details. These injuries in total make me 330% disabled.

One of my primary goals, through my career as a Biomedical Engineer is to develop a permanent colostomy wafer that will eliminate most of the equipment required by everyone wearing a permanent colostomy bag today. For the truth is that, as an individual who knows what it is like to depend on appliances for the long term, I stress that others will agree with me that the fewer pieces of equipment one depends on, the better quality of life that person will have. I was in-patient in the hospital for over a year and in rehab for over two years; therefore, I know the tremendous benefit the right medical provisions provide us.

So between these three things: family, pursuing my education, and training for the Paralympics, I believe my children will have an exceptional example to follow in life. In order to get a full understanding of any class I take, I must work at least three times as hard as everybody else to compensate for the cognitive weaknesses my TBI presents. This causes school to take up the majority of my time during the day.

My financial need goes beyond just paying for school as I have my family to provide for because I am unable to work while attending college. A scholarship would greatly assist with education expenses and give me the peace of mind that my family is provided for while I pursue my higher purpose in life to assist the disabled Americans of today.