

Personal Statement

Nursing Major – overcame hardships

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.

I have always loved the medical field. I am currently in the process on work on perquisites for a transfer to University of California, Irvine for a major in Neurobiology. After obtaining my AA in liberal art with a focus in Math and Sciences, I am going to apply to MiraCosta's nursing program. I am currently a CNA and I have always had a goal to become a nurse, as I would gain more information about how nurses and doctors work together. I love helping people and to have the honor to help my patients further while saving money towards medical school, would give me invaluable experience.

Currently, my long-term goal is to become a Neuropsychiatrist. One of my goals is to work at the Neuropsychiatric Institute at UCI as an RN to learn more about the facility, about the population they treat, and to learn more about the doctors who work there. As a neuropsychiatrist, I want to transform the mental health field. Every day in an initial consultation with a psychiatrist, individuals are diagnosed with DSM-V diagnoses without any medical testing. I want to research fMRI imaging as a way to verify a diagnosis and to evaluate the success of a certain course of treatment.

Extracurricular *

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?

I am working two jobs. At this time, I work at Sears in Carlsbad in the appliance department for 15-20 hours a week. My primary job is at Advanced Diabetes Supply in Carlsbad working to assist patients to enroll in services for mail order diabetic supplies and to explain the changes that occurred with Medicare to prior patients while offering other services such as back, knee, wrist, shoulder and ankle braces for management of their pain. After working there for about 2 years, I started to experience severe pain in my right wrist and am currently on temporary disability due to my wrist and working through numerous medical treatments. I should be back at work soon working 35 hours a week.

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.

I feel that the hardships I have overcome in my life have shaped me into the person I am today. I was raped when I was 17, and from that point in my life everything changed for the worse. There was a time when I either attempted suicide or planned my next suicide attempt. At one point, I was diagnosed was schizoaffective bipolar disorder. While I was in a residential treatment center, a therapist there told me that I would never graduate from high school, that I would never go to college, that I would never have

a job, that I would end up schizophrenic and mentally dependent on my mom for the rest of my life. I could have just let all that be and not fight it, but that is not who I am. I did develop Paranoid Schizophrenia, but I continued to work regularly through it all. Over the course of treatment and continued belief in the miracles of God, the schizophrenia was no longer a diagnosis that fit and the suicidal thoughts were gone. I moved here to California in 2013 to be closer to my sister who has Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy and resides in Villa Coronado. Little did I know that my mom and I would be homeless months at a time living in our car after months and months of job hunting. We would go to Brother Benno's for showers and a rest stop is where we called home. Through it all, I never lost faith that we would find an apartment of our own. Now we are living in a beautiful studio apartment with utilities included. After everything that I have gone through, it has made me appreciate the life I live now and the opportunities that I have even more. One day, I do want to write a book of my life to inspire others.

With everything that we have gone through with being homeless and numerous car troubles as well, it has left me financially drained. Buying books and paying for other school expenses has been hard for me. This scholarship would reduce my concerns about money for the Fall term and it would empower me to focus more on my education. If there is any money left over, it would be saved for my future educational goals.

Published: 7/9/15