

Personal Statement

Computer Science Student

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 am currently pursuing an A.A. degree in Computer Science, with the goal of transferring to a four-year university in the fall of 2016. My plan is to obtain a B.S. in Computer Science from either a California State University (CSU) or a University of California (UC), graduating in May of 2018. Upon graduation, it is my hope to find a career in either systems security or systems auditing. I have always been fascinated by computers and often find myself as the go to guy when friends and associates have issues with their computers; they just seem to make sense to me.

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?

I am currently involved with a few different extracurricular activities. I am of service in Narcotics Anonymous on various levels; local, area and regional. I am the treasurer at one meeting, and a Group Service Representative (GSR) at another, which is responsible for representing local meetings at the Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous. I volunteer in the Math Learning Center at MiraCosta College for an average of 4 – 6 hours weekly as a tutor helping other students, and I am a member of the Computer Club. I also volunteer for 1 – 2 times per year, registering voters for The LGBTQ Center in San Diego, and at various regional events.

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 am a returning student to college after a 33-year absence. I attended college after graduating from high school but my focus at the time was not on my studies. I have also struggled with substance abuse for years, which culminated in a prison sentence for a possession charge. To say my life was a mess, would be an understatement, and it was hitting rock bottom that made me walk into the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. When I say that the 12-steps saved my life, I mean it in every way, physically, mentally and spiritually. It is through the 12-steps that I found the courage to return to school and am now pursuing my dreams with a set of realistic goals in mind.

I have been on Social Security Disability for eight years and I am using their Ticket to Work program to get off disability and become a contributing member of society, as opposed to a drain on the system.

My current income is barely covering my monthly living expenses and any scholarships I receive will allow me to continue my studies without trying to juggle a full-time job and attend school. If awarded a scholarship, I hope to upgrade my laptop for school as my current computer is eight years old and it is struggling to keep up with the workload I am demanding from it.

Published: 7/9/15

Personal Statement
International Student from Russia – Economics Major

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 major is Economics. May 2016 I am planning to graduate from MiraCosta with a Social Science AA and transfer to a university. My top three schools are Stanford University, Dartmouth College, and Brown University because they provide a very high level of economics programs and scholarships for International students. Overall in life, I desire to change the world's economic system. And when I am talking about this system, I don't refer to any particular country. I believe the system of every single country has flaws. The crisis of 2008 showed that even the most powerful countries in the world have an imperfect economic system, and I want to make my job about improving the world economic system because it would significantly increase the quality of the life in a lot of countries around the world.

My major is Economics, and my minor is Computer Science because I believe the IT Technologies are the way to make the Economic system more precise and productive. Computers can provide millions of decisions for a particular problem each second. That means that we just need to teach them to preemptively diagnose the next crash of our Economic system. And this is what I see myself doing after my graduation from a master's program in 4 years because I need to learn a lot more than I know now to develop and implement this type of program. Also, I believe that people are able to succeed in everything they do if they are working together. I want to transfer to the university to find individuals who are passionate about the same things I am to create a group of people who will change the global economic system in a significant way.

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?

I work at the MiraCosta College Library on the Oceanside campus as a circulation aid (17 hours per week)
I volunteer my time with ASG (Association of Students' Government) from 14 to 18 hours per week (as the Chair of the Inter-Club Counsel and a member of the Finance Committee). My time commitment for ASG by the end of March will be more than 250 hours. I would have been able to receive a Gold President Award, but I am not eligible because I am International Student.

I am a part of the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Club on campus (as Public Relationships) and time depends on events. April is a very important month for NAMI, we are planning to organize at least one or two events every week at all three campuses of MiraCosta College.

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.

While I had planned to go to the University of Chicago after high school, the summer following my graduation my uncle passed away, and my grandmother required significant family support. I elected to put off my education for one year to support and care for her health and wellbeing. I moved from Moscow to Saratov, the city where she lives. I made this decision because, in my culture, children take care of their parents when they retire. During this year, I also worked full time as a means of saving for my education. I was working as a waitress, where I learned a lot of very useful skills, which you cannot learn at college, like reading people and developing a tough skin. Also, I was working as a web designer (online job). I chose to add this job because it was online, I was able to take care of my grandmother, while working online, and it gave me the significant experience of working in a field I intended to major in, once I started college. Also, I got a lot of amazing skills from this job such as how to pace my work, how to meet all my deadlines, and how to be an independent worker. I don't have any regrets because I spent significant time with my grandmother and I got a lot of useful life experience.

A few months after I started my education, the Russian currency significantly dropped. The American dollar became twice as expensive as it was before. It meant that all education fees for me became twice as expensive. Before I needed 600,000 rubles to pay for \$18,000 per year, now I need more than 1,134,000 rubles to pay the same \$18,000 annually. This year I started to work in the College Library for 17 hours with a salary, which is equal to minimum wage, because I cannot work outside the campus and find a job with a higher salary because of my visa requirements. That's why now instead of studying like most Americans three years in Community College, I cut one year by taking more units per semester. It's the only way how I can afford my education because my parents can't help me. Now I am taking 22 units (\$ 246 per unit = \$5,412 as an International student). It increases the cost per year but decreases the cost of my full education. Scholarship funds will help me to pay for my education, for my books, for housing, and for food. I appreciate the scholarship committee for taking my application into consideration and any scholarship would be most helpful, and I would be very grateful.

Economics Major - Veteran

Education and Career Goals

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals. Include any future plans to transfer to a 4-year institution.

I am currently in the pursuit of a degree in Math and Economics and my long-term goal is to become a financial engineer. Because America is currently suffering through a financial crisis, I feel I should be a part of the solution by assisting economists in the betterment of our country's economy. I would like to influence the future generations of leaders in the right direction and improve this discrepancy or be able to initiate the first steps toward improvement. I will be transferring to UCSD to finish my degree.

Extracurricular Activities

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; such as: 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 currently the Veteran's Club president also a member of the math club at MiraCosta. I joined the Veterans' Club for the camaraderie. I joined the Math Club to hone in my skills toward my major.

I also practice martial arts on my off time. I find this to be a way to relax and relieve my stresses from school.

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 importantly, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

My vision is getting cloudy, my breathing is becoming difficult and I'm hyperventilating. My vest and weapon are getting heavier with each step I take. All I think about is when am I going to be done with this torture. As I place one foot in front of the other, I can feel my knees beginning to buckle and my ankles are getting weak. The only thing keeping my mind off the pain is the steady crunch of the rocks and sand underneath my boots. After a few hours, about twenty percent of us are not present. I lift my head and look around the crowd, I notice that my brethren cannot make it through. I can feel the eye of my subordinate on me. This gives me more incentive to keep going and to set the example for the rest of my Marines. I wipe the sweat of my brow. Slowly the pains start to fade and I begin to regain my strength. I ignore the pain and start to motivate the rest of the Marines to continue. A few hours pass, and all I can hear are the Marines complaining about how "this hike is detrimental to our morale." Even though the complaining is continuous, no one is falling out. I hear another Marine say "how the hell is he doing it, he's not (...) human". I look at him and say "I'm not" with a smirk on my face, trying to hide the pain. He laughs it off and tells everyone "I'm not going to let that guy make me look bad, if he can do it we can do it". They begin to be more focused and walk upright. Mile 20 approaches quickly. I begin to tell jokes about some of my experiences in the Marine Corps to maintain morale.

"Sgt. I don't want to quit but my SAW [squad automatic weapon or machine gun] is slowing me down," one Marine says. Despite the pain, I run over to him and grab the weapon. I carry it for two miles to help ease his discomfort. When I hand the weapon back, I tell him "we're all going through the same pain brother, don't slow us down!" The end is near, greeting our eyes with open arms, the feeling of triumph over adversity was worth it.

I am a combat Marine veteran. My experiences during my time in the service were difficult, but I was well trained to deal with the pressures of war. Because of this attitude and work ethic, I was able to become a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honors society at MiraCosta College.

I have been deployed to Japan, Australia, Cuba and Afghanistan. Most of my military career has been overseas. *My experiences I chose not to discuss for personal reasons, but my overall military life was satisfying.* I had been away from my wife for more collective time than we have spent time with each other. A change was necessary for the both of us as the military began to change and started to become fitting for the age. Instead of the military being a part of life it became more of a job. I knew then that the military started to lose its luster. My wife and I discussed different ways to approach a successful lifestyle. Through letters and sporadic phone calls during deployment, she brought to my attention that I should go back to school, knowing that I had already mentioned that school was an option. My wife already has her B.S. in Biology and using her knowledge from her educational background of how the administration works, she held my hand with processes and helps guide me during my transition.

My sister and I are the first in my family to go to college. Judging from experiences here dealing with the financial stresses, I have decided to remain focused on school and use the GI Bill wisely. Granted this eases some of the burden that comes with pursuing an education, there is still a financial burden. Especially during emergencies when trying to maintain a decent financial status becomes difficult to manage. In other words paying bills can be difficult when an unforeseen event occurs.

Your contribution to my education will be highly appreciated and will not go in vain. Also with this contribution, I can be focused on my academics without worrying too much about my finances and will continue to achieve my education and maintain a high GPA.

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.

Personal Statement Honors Scholar Program Student

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 am a returning student and a proud member of the Honors Scholar Program at MiraCosta College with many achievements, but I was not always who I am today academically. Somewhere around fifth grade, I became a victim of bullying. Of all the abuse, the attacks that hit me the hardest were on my level of intelligence. My insecurities over my own intellectual abilities consumed me, and for the next 12 years I lacked any motivation or confidence to apply myself to my studies. Consequently, my grades reflected this; however, in the fall of 2013 I decided enough was enough. I bared the freedom to choose my own destiny, regardless of what other individuals thought of me. I enrolled one unit shy of full-time and completed my first semester at MiraCosta College with a 4.0 GPA. Today, I continue to achieve great academic success. My achievements and high GPA have earned me the title of Head Navigator in the Honors Scholar Program at MiraCosta College, the highest student leadership position within the program. Originally, my plan was that I would major in Communications, transfer to UCLA, and eventually work my way into a career with a video game review magazine titled Game Informer. My educational plan took a turn when I enrolled in my first true mathematics course since 8th grade. Feeling confident in my dedication to my studies I enrolled in the accelerated versions of Elementary and Intermediate Algebra simultaneously, and completed both courses with the highest grade in the class. My love for critical thinking and problem solving emerged through the subject of mathematics, and I knew I had finally found my educational purpose.

My goals for my future have expanded beyond my prior vision of UCLA. My top schools are currently UCSD, UC Berkeley, Duke University, and Cornell University with a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science. Studying abroad at Oxford University to explore not only other cultures but the educational systems beyond my own borders is also something I aspire to do. Due to my high GPA, I will have the opportunity to apply for a semester as a Visiting Student and recognized as a full member of the University. I am also applying for internships to gain research experience in either mathematics or computer science. My career goals with mathematics and computer science are not set in stone, but the diversity of careers I can attain with my degree is partly what enticed me. With mathematics I have the ability to explore research opportunities, and with computer science I may work contractually around the world creating programs for companies to better their systems. My efficiency in computer programming would also allow me to explore my love of video games, and possibly program for a gaming company. I have only recently uncovered this new passion of mine, but I am enthusiastic and trusting that I will take it to great places in my future.

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?

During my three semesters at MiraCosta College, I have been an active member of Associated Student Government. My position is Student-at-Large and entails supporting campus constituent groups and efforts as assigned by the President, and completing specific duties as assigned by either the President or Vice President. I go beyond the requirements of my position by organizing my class schedule around meetings to ensure my attendance, helping with office hours, and dedicating my time and efforts to ensuring our College Hour is a smooth and fun process for the student body. Being a positive and active member of my school's community is something I believe to be a very important asset to my educational career.

During my first semester, I volunteered my services as an Official Note Taker with the Disabled Students Programs and Services offices for a student in need of assistance in my English class. I eagerly volunteered when the opportunity presented itself yet again in an accelerated mathematics course, and again in my computer science course. As a student of MiraCosta College, I believe it is my academic duty to assist in the collegiate success of my fellow peers.

Up until the pursuit of my academic journey, I interned and volunteered with San Diego Youth Services several times a week as an Expressive Art Therapist for homeless and at-risk youth. These therapeutic art sessions offered a positive and creative outlet for their emotions, and gave them a safe and conducive environment to actually be a child; a rare and exceedingly important opportunity as most of their lives involved a combination of drugs, violence, severe abuse, abandonment, and child prostitution. Beyond therapeutic sessions I acted as a mentor and a role model. Adolescence is already a naturally heavy learning period of self-worth that can be very difficult. Adding the uncertainty of where one will sleep in conjunction with the shame they often feel projected from society, it is increasingly important that these children are shown that they are valued and given the tools to cope with their increasing hardships. Unfortunately, pursuing my education at MiraCosta placed me too far north of this influential opportunity. However, I now volunteer my time at the Rancho Coastal Humane Society playing with and tending to the animals as we focus our efforts on finding them a loving and caring home. I always do my best to contribute to and give back to all the communities with which I identify myself.

I volunteered my services as an official moderator at the Honors Transfer Council Conference hosted at UC Irvine where students present individual research. As a moderator I introduced presenters, and kept their presentation within the time constraints.

I also plan to travel to Mexico with a fellow peer and assist in pro bono surgeries for under privileged children with the organization Smiles International. I cannot be more excited to make an impact outside of my own community, and reach others on a global level.

When I am not spending my time in class studying, or volunteering, I am working 20-25 hours a week as a server at a restaurant. Working for others in this way can be a very humbling experience, and has allowed me to work on my communication skills as well as handle less than ideal situations to be a great and experienced leader.

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.

Previously, my biggest hardship was an internal personal struggle regarding my delayed education as a returning student; however, as my educational journey has progressed, this hardship has shifted. Towards the beginning of my academic career at MiraCosta College, I lived a comfortable life at home with my mother. I was extremely fortunate to be able to fully pursue my education without worry of finances due to her love and support. My mother and I lived in San Diego, and my commute was 20 minutes north to the MiraCosta San Elijo campus. I discovered my passion for mathematics and computer science; and when I changed my major, most of the classes were only offered at the Oceanside campus. Simultaneously, my mother moved further east, and I had only one choice if I were to continue to pursue my academics so rigorously: move in with my biological father. Not only did my commute soar to at least 400 miles a week, resulting in the depletion of my entire paycheck on just gas alone, I am now living with a functional alcoholic. The stress of this situation caused me to drop two of my classes and I had to reevaluate what was important to me and find the balance between caring for a family member and focusing on myself. This was a difficult learning experience, and I am now back on top knowing I can take anything that is thrown my way. Education, as many know, can be very costly, and with my daily commute has made it almost impossible for me to make ends meet. A scholarship would help me immensely as I would be able to continue to afford the gas necessary to make it to my classes, and relieve the stress of having to ask for help from a man who is relearning to take care of himself.

Published: 7/9/15

Personal Statement Horticulture - Transfer Student

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 current goal involves transferring to a 4-year University in the fall. To that end, I have spent my time really trying to take full advantage of the resources MiraCosta has to offer. I have received nearly straight A's since being enrolled here at MiraCosta, and have become involved in clubs and more recently student government. In the fall, I applied to UC Davis and two other institutions, and also completed a TAG for UC Davis as a Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems major. My first transfer college choice is UC Davis and I plan to complete my undergrad there and then begin to consider Graduate school. I hope to enter one of three fields post-graduate; the first field being sustainable agriculture, either being a farmer or consulting with farmers to better the food system. The second option is entering public service through either the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the Department of the Interior, or the like. My third option would be to go to Law School and pursue environmental concerns or policy, or even public office in order to improve and make more sustainable our national food system, or even broader, the way we eat as a nation.

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?

Currently, I spend a large portion of my time as an officer in MiraCosta's Associated Student Government. I hold the office of Vice President of Legislative Affairs, where I have the opportunity to sit on several committees including: student success, sustainability, Law (ASG), Public Relations (ASG), Interview Committee (ASG), and I was the Chair of the ASG Goals Committee as well. Over the past semester, I have had the opportunity to represent the whole of MiraCosta's students at the State level through SSCCC governance, as well as through our local Region X Council. Recently, I was appointed as the Region X Legislative Affairs Committee Chair as well. My most current project through ASG has been drafting and passing a Legislative Plan for ASG that will carry us through the 2016 presidential election, and ideally influence the next administration and policies of ASG moving forward. I have also had the opportunity to be involved with the GSA club, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Horticulture Club on campus and attend as many campus events as possible.

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.

The accomplishment I have most treasure through the past few years has been the very fact that I have come back to school. It was not an easy decision to leave a good paying job at a hotel to pursue higher education; but, I know that doing so would be an investment in my future and my future earnings. I am proud to have had the opportunity to come back to school and am even more proud that I have done so well since being here. I really feel like I am taking full advantage of the Community college experience this time and will be sad to leave, but am very proud of what I have accomplished here. I am also proud that I have been recognized for my efforts and grades from nearly every group on campus, I truly could not do it without the financial, moral, and emotional support I still receive.

Published: 7/9/15

Personal Statement

Journalism Student

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 plans are obtaining my journalism degree at San Diego State University and then I will pursue my Master's degree at UCLA in communication studies. After I finish my bachelors, I want to work with the biggest newspaper in the nation, such as, L.A times, New York Times, Washington Post, and La Opinion, which is the first Spanish newspaper in the country. I want to be the best journalist in the country. I want to be a successful journalist and a credible writer but I also want to help millions of people with my words that I publish.

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?

On campus, I am the ICC representative for the Spanish Club; I also help to plan and coordinate events. Every month the Spanish club shows a movie on campus and I help to organize movie night and another activities. I am also a member of the Gay Straight Alliance Club and I help them with the events at MiraCosta College. Off campus, I work as a volunteer helping the community leader, Mark Day, at the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice in San Diego. I help to translate Spanish to English for the conferences about the immigrant rights and legalization process.

In addition, I write for a Spanish newspaper called La Prensa San Diego as a freelance reporter. This position's responsibilities involve investigation of news and events, collecting information, and finally writing articles. I am so grateful to work as a Reporter in a Spanish newspaper because I had the pleasure to work with the undocumented immigrants and community leaders in San Diego County. I have been working with the Spanish media for almost three years and one story that changed my life was last spring. I wrote an article for the newspaper called "Mujeres en la lucha" which means fighting women. The article was about a group of women that lost their husbands due to the deportation process. The women continue fighting for their kids and created a tamales corporation to make an income to survive. They started selling the tamales at bars and restaurants. I published an article about their life and the functions of the tamales corporation. One district office intern, Vincent Pham who is an employee at the office of Congressman Scott Peters, contacted the editor of La Prensa San Diego because they want to use federal money to help the women. I was informed that they donated money to the tamales corporation after they read my article. With this article, not only I did I have the pleasure of writing an amazing story about a group of women, this story also changed my life in many ways because I understand no matter what you do, you have to believe in yourself and your dream. I felt this day, I contributed to those women.

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 was born and raised in Bucaramanga Colombia. I came to this country a couple years ago with two pieces of luggage and many dreams. One of my dreams was to be able to write in a country which has freedom of speech. Unfortunately, in the last five years fifty-seven journalists died doing their profession in Colombia. I left my home and family members because I still believed that I can be a good journalist. I want to continue writing for newspapers and not have fear when my articles are published. English is my second language and it has been hard adapting to the new vocabulary. However, every semester I take extra tutor classes to ensure I will pass the course. I will make sure that the professor knows me and I do not fall behind with homework and exams. My current GPA is 3.87 and I feel proud to be on the President's list where I am among 8% of students with the best grades at MiraCosta College.

If I receive this scholarship, it will change my life. I will be able to concentrate more in school and buy school supplies that I need in this semester. I don't have money to buy all my books, photocopies, and materials that professors ask around the semester. However, every semester, I use the books from the library but always it's difficult for me to stay in the school for many hours. I pay my rent because the financial aid and my freelance job. My parents live in Colombia and I don't get any support from them. I am full time student and I can only work part-time. I am alone and I need the help. I have a lot of school expenses in my classes and every semester I struggle to pay for classes supplies. Even if I don't have money, my grades are very important to me. College is the reason what motivates me to achieve my dreams.

Personal Statement Essays Nursing Major – Honors

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 major is to be a Registered Nurse, I am completing pre requisites to get into the nursing program in MiraCosta College. I have been a full time student since I started College, I am now in my fourth semester, enrolled in 12 units. I have been living in the United States for the past four years, before I was in Mexico where I was a Physician with a specialty in Family care. I came to the United States because I was held at gun point in Mexico. I would love to go back to work to a hospital to help people like I used to do. Since I have worked in the healthcare field before in my country, I know how much I love it, it brings joy to my heart to know that I am part of a community and that I am able to help others in some way. I want to have that back in my life and I am one step closer in achieving it by being in college.

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?

I am grateful that I am volunteering at Tri-City Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit Department. It feels great to be part of my community. In this area I control who goes in the Intensive Care Unit, I also walk the families to the patient's room, and since I am bilingual, many people are thankful that I can talk to them in Spanish. This activity relates to my educational goal because I want to be a Registered Nurse, volunteering in a hospital is a great way to start being in this environment. I have also been crocheting baby hats to donate them to the newborn babies in the hospital, I learned to crochet watching YouTube videos. This scholarship motivates me to give the best of myself in my education and in life.

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 have been on the president's list of MiraCosta College in three occasions, I am in the Honor Society, and I am member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors.

I am the first member of my family to attend College, my father works in the fields in Mexico and my mother is a stay-at-home mom. I am a member of a family of 3, my husband, my five year old son, me. But my family is growing. I am currently pregnant. I will be sincere, this pregnancy was not planned, and I was very scared for what was going to happen with me and school. Fortunately, my baby girl will be born in summer; therefore, I will be able to go back to school for fall of this year, so I will not lose any semesters. I even found a daycare for her already.

My husband is the only one working, he is a very hardworking man, and he encourages me to keep going with my education, because we know that it is the only way that we can give our children a better future. However, even though my husband works really hard, he makes less than \$3,000 a month, and half of that money goes towards the rent of the one bedroom apartment where we live, and the rest towards my bus passes, health insurance, gas, food, and daycare for my son. I know it will get harder adding one more member to my family; however, I believe that education is fundamental to have a better future and be able to have a career that I can enjoy.

Personal Statement

Nursing Major - International Student from China

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 would like to get a bachelor's degree in nursing and be a Registered Nurse (RN). What is more, I would like to try to get a master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner so that I can work in a clinic and help the people who can't afford expensive medical care. California State University San Marcos is one of my ideal 4-year transfer institution as well as other state universities in California.

Extracurricular Activities*

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; such as: 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 currently doing volunteer service in La Paloma Healthcare Center and Tri-City Hospital.
- On campus, I am a member of the International Club and was in the French club in the first semester.
- I am working as a peer leader for International Office for about five hours per week.
- I am a math tutor at the Math Learning Center.

All the activities and work I am doing and have done relate to my education and career objective. I always want to volunteer to be a nurse in an African country, and that is why I studied French and joined the French Club at school to improve my French. The peer leader and math tutoring help me to learn how to communicate and help others better, which is very important to a professional nurse as comforting and helping the patients are my career objectives.

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 importantly, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

I am an international student from Shanghai, China. I always want to study medicine in America as it is one of the top countries that have good medical industry. The tuition fees here in the United States are expensive for me. Language and culture difference were the challenges. However, after the ESL class and my hard work as well as my participation in all kinds of campus activities, my language is improved a lot and I have a better understanding and preference of the awesome American culture. Although I am working two jobs on campus, I hope I can get some financial aid to help me to get further education in nursing major. With the help of scholarship, I can focus more on my academic life instead of working a lot. Besides, I can volunteer more in hospitals and healthcare centers to prepare myself to be an excellent and professional nurse to help people to relieve their pain and sorrows.

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

Personal Statement Essays Nursing Major – Single Parent

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 had an interest in the medical field and dreamed of being part of it. I am currently in the process of working on my prerequisites to obtain an Associate's in Liberal Arts with a focus in Mathematics and Sciences at MiraCosta College and then plan to apply to a Registered Nursing program. After receiving my Registered Nursing degree, I plan to transfer to San Diego State University for a Bachelor's of Science Nursing degree then pursue a Master's in Nursing. My long term goal is to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

One of my goals is to work at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. I want to experience and learn the different diagnoses and treatments to help children. My goal is to be able to comfort a sick child and be able to build a trust with the parents; and most importantly, being able to work with other different medical professionals.

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?

When I am not in school or busy with assignments, I dedicate my time to my children, ages 3 and 4. Whether it's reading to them, helping them write their name or playing with them, I want to be able to spend the most time I can with them. I always volunteer at their pre-school. Another goal is to volunteer at Tri-City Hospital so I can get a glimpse of what to expect in the future and to gain knowledge of the medical field.

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.

A challenge I had overcome that is so important to me is becoming a young mother. At the age of 15, my sophomore year of high school, I was expecting. I was doing poorly in my academics, how was I supposed to keep up while caring for an infant? I transferred to Alta Vista H.S where I was able to continue my education and have the privilege of free child care. The end of junior year I was told by my counselor I had a chance to transfer back to my old high school and graduate there. During that summer break, a week after my 17th birthday, I had an unexpected surprise, I was expecting my second child in less than 24 weeks I would be awaiting his arrival. I was depressed, I would cry myself to sleep because I knew I would fall back on my school work caring for an infant and a toddler, which would mean I wouldn't be able to transfer back to school before the second semester of my senior year started.

After juggling high school while caring for two babies, on June 20, 2013, I graduated and received my high school diploma! Along my side walking to the stage were my two biggest motivators, my daughter and my son. I was joyful, I beat the "teen mom" statistic/stereo-type and proved those who doubted me, were wrong. Never in my life had I felt so accomplished.

After a two year break, I decided it was time to enroll in college to pursue my dream and make it into reality. I am the first in my family to graduate high school, attend college and the first to soon graduate from college. I do not let my past dictate who I am but part of who I will become. After struggling being a mother of two and a student, we had always had a problem being financially stable. Coming back to school was not an option, I still can't afford to purchase textbooks, pay other school expenses and the fees. I currently don't have a job, the only source of income is from the father of my children to help keep our family stable. With the help of this scholarship it will take some stress off paying for college, I would be able to spend more time focused on my studies and quality time with my children, and it will encourage me to keep striving toward my dream.

Personal Statement

Psychology Major - International Student (Japan)

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 major is Psychology that I had desired to pursue this study since I was a junior high school student in Japan. In my junior-high senior grade, I realized I was interested in the human mind when I read a book about Freud Sigmund in the school library which explained his theory quite simply using a Japanese comic-book manga style. Now, my plan is to finish MiraCosta College in 2 years, and transfer to University California San Diego because the university has excellent classes especially about the human brain. Also, I would like to go to a graduate school; either San Diego State University or California State University Fullerton, to get a master's degree because they have a great counseling program in psychology section. For my career, I want to support people with a psychological approach. I've thought about working as a counselor, but I am still looking for more possibilities to accomplish my career goals.

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?

In the Fall 2014 semester, I was involved in the Japanese Club every Monday in MiraCosta College even though I could not officially join this semester because of my class schedule. Since it was my first semester, I joined the club to get used to the college taking advantage of my Japanese nationality. The activities helped students to grasp Japanese culture though playing traditional board/table games, watching classic movies, and more. Through these activities, I realized one could sufficiently understand and enjoy other cultures with small aid. For example, when we played "Shogi," which is the Japanese version of chess, we used special pieces instead of the original ones that are printed Chinese letters on to show how each piece moves. Since arrows are printed on special pieces instead of Chinese letters, students understood the game's rule easily and enjoyed. I learned one of the ways of cross-cultural understanding though these activities. From next semester, I am thinking about getting a job to earn money even though it will be limited because of my F1 visa.

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.

On March 11, 2011, when I was ninth grade, there was a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, which caused a devastating tsunami and fire in my city subsequently. Fortunately, my family and I succeeded in escaping from the wave. However, I saw from the hill where we escaped to that many houses and neighborhoods were flooded and then burned by a huge because fishery oil was mixed in the water. I lost many things and some of my friends in a flash and it became the most horrible experience in my memory. Even though it happened four years ago, my parents still live in a temporary house, which is weak and really small, and they definitely need a normal house or apartment to live in someday; even if it takes a huge cost. In fact, this experience gave me an opportunity to think about lives and human relationships. Moreover, I began to think I wanted to be mature and strong enough to support people suffering for something because I wanted somebody to support me mentally when I was in the hard time. I know the pain of them. That is the reason why I left Japan. Now, I am studying hard to go to UCSD and a graduate school because I am really curious about human structure. As well, I want to push myself to the limits to grow up. However, for international students, tuitions are much more expensive than for citizens. Since I cannot work enough because of my visa, and my family needs to get their living place, I really need to the help of this scholarship to pursue my education and my hope. Thank you for your consideration.

Personal Statement Essays
Registered Nursing Major – AB540

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 education goals are to complete the Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) Program at MiraCosta College in Spring 2017. Then I will apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) by December 2017. My goal is to transfer to a four-year university to get a Bachelors in Science of Nursing Degree by enrolling in a RN to BSN program after obtaining licensure. After obtaining my BSN I want to continue my education to eventually obtain a Ph.D.

My career goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner (NP). I want to become a NP to work in my community. I want to be a NP in hopes of helping my Hispanic community because I have personally dealt with the challenges of getting quality healthcare. I have seen my mother and other Hispanic individuals struggle with language barriers and because of these language barriers they have been denied adequate health care. As a NP I will do my best to care, educate, and help my community.

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?

I am currently employed 30 hours a week. I work as a caregiver with adults who have special needs and as a respite caregiver for a child who also has special needs. I chose to work with this population to gain skills that will help me in my journey to becoming a NP. I have gained new skills like patience, acceptance of differences, and communication. I enjoy working with the individuals I work with because I am helping make a difference in their life.

Since the nursing program is very intense and requires a lot of time and dedication, I am not able to volunteer as much as I would like, but I have made a goal to give more to my community. In the past I have volunteered at Tri-City Auxiliary Program in the Lab Department, obtaining samples from different departments in the hospital. I have helped with MANA de San Diego at their Annual Health Fairs helping provide free preventative screenings to those who lack health coverage. At the Encuentros Club at MiraCosta College I volunteered to be their secretary and I also helped with the Encuentros Conference. I have also been a guest speaker at Ocean Shore High School to inspire students to continue their education. In addition, I have participated in the MiraCosta Service Learning Program at sites like Ivey Ranch Park and MAAC Head Start.

The organizations and clubs I am involved in are MANA de San Diego Organization, which focuses on higher education for Latina girls and woman. I am also a member of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), which is involved in different community events like homeless outreach programs. I've helped the NSNA by donating items for their homeless care packages. In the future, I hope to be able to give more back to my community.

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.

The biggest accomplishment I have achieved is being admitted to the nursing program at MiraCosta College. It has not been easy to get where I am today, but all the challenges have helped me become a better person all around. At one point in my life the thought of college was an unattainable dream because I was a 16-year-old mother. With the support of my teachers and family I graduated high school and with the help of two scholarships I became the first in my family to attend college. During the next four years I focused on completing all my general education and prerequisites for the nursing program while working full-time and

being a parent. During this time my son was diagnosed with mild Autism and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD); that only made my desire to become a nurse even greater. Another challenge I have is that of being an AB540. I don't get any financial assistance for my son or for my education, and this is why I work to support my son and why I depend on scholarships to help pay for my education. If I am awarded this scholarship it will help me purchase the books and pay the fees that the program requires to continue.

Personal Statement Science Student

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.

Neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric diseases such as schizophrenia, Huntington's disease (HD), Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease (AD) are complex, traumatic, and potentially disabling disorders. They are often poorly understood and carry unfortunate stigma within the general population, while being extremely distressing for both the patient and the family. They also place a huge burden on society through pressure on the public health system and lost productivity.

Technological, as well as methodological, advances are improving our understanding of these diseases, while translational research is making knowledge about these disorders applicable to the general population. It is here that my interests lie, and is why I have decided to further my education in life sciences and biotechnology at Mira Costa College (MCC) while volunteering at the Center of Behavioral Genomics, UC San Diego (UCSD). At UCSD, I am learning how to extract and store DNA and RNA from blood filters collected from individuals with neuropsychiatric disorders (and controls). Furthermore, in the coming months I hope to have the opportunity to assist a postdoc scholar in culturing and studying brain cell connectivity and signaling using schizophrenia patient-specific cell models.

Courses at MCC are essential to filling in the gaps in my biological knowledge and have provided bio-statistical techniques that help interpret the data and write technically about it. I aspire to translate my training in biotechnology, biostatistics, and life sciences into the more specific goal of becoming a Research Scientist in the area of genetic epidemiology/ bioinformatics with a focus on neuro-genetics. More narrowly, I endeavor to be able to assist in the search for biomarkers for neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases in order to identify, protect, and prevent their manifestation.

After completing foundational coursework at MCC, and taking bioinformatics/upper-level life science courses at UCSD, I plan to enter the epidemiology master's degree program at San Diego State University.

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?

I volunteer at the Center of Behavioral Genomics, UC San Diego (UCSD) as a lab technician. I am currently learning how to extract and store DNA and RNA from blood filters collected from individuals with neuropsychiatric disorders (and controls). I also have the chance to learn how to do literature searches, edit manuscripts, and create presentations for Center members.

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.

As stated above, I am employed as an Administrative Assistant at the time of writing; thus any fiduciary reward would be received quite gratefully and utilized practically in both furthering my education, and carrying my career aspirations forward.

This semester (Spring 2015), I am taking the math and biotechnology courses at MCC and a chemistry course at UCSD. Proof of the commitment I have to my studies, and interest in the area is displayed in my 4.0 GPA in science courses (3.83 overall).

As I was a recipient of the Mireille Rajah Memorial Endowed Scholarship, I believe it germane to introduce to the reader how these funds were disbursed in the Fall semester, 2014. With financial assistance from Mireille Rajah Memorial Endowed Scholarship, I matriculated in the following courses and received the corresponding grades: Institution Course Grade Received
UCSD Genetics (upper division) A, MCC Biotechnology and Business Environment A, MCC Biological Data Analysis with Excel A.

Receiving a Scholarship would assist in defraying much of the cost of pursuing my interest in psychiatric/neuroscience and genetic research. The scholarship's value approximates the cost of taking several units at Mira Costa College; including books, and transportation. This award would be of tremendous personal assistance. As I employed as an Administrative Assistant at the time of writing, any fiduciary reward would be received quite gratefully and utilized practically in both furthering my education, and carrying my career aspirations forward. Thank you for considering my application.

Published: 7/9/15

Personal Statement Single-Parent Student

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 education and career goals have changed over the years, but I am happy to announce that I am graduating in 2015 with my AA degree that I have been working on for 20+ years. I plan to continue at MiraCosta in the fall working on my transfer credits so I can obtain my Bachelor's degree in Product and Development.

I currently work at a company called Victory Team Apparel in the accounting department. When I interviewed with the Manager of the Product and Development Department, I knew that is the direction I wanted to take my career. The idea of creating and developing a product is exciting to me and that is actually my original goal when I first attended college in 1988.

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?

I work 40 hours a week in accounting and 4 hours a week in retail as well as sing in a few different cover bands. With going to school full-time and raising children on top of that, it leaves me little time for other extracurricular activities or to volunteer.

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 am a single mother of three. I am originally from Washington and I moved here with my husband and children in 2004. We moved our carpet cleaning business here and cleaned all of the Block Buster video stores, but they have since gone out of business and so did my marriage. I rejoined the workforce working for minimum wage supporting my children and soon took on another job at Victory Team Apparel. I am currently in school full-time at MiraCosta and have worked very hard to maintain a 4.0 GPA. I also work full-time in an accounting department and part-time in retail. My passion is singing and I am currently in a few different cover bands that play in San Diego County and Orange County. Scholarship money will help take some of the pressure off me so I can focus on my studies and my children. I hope that one day I can work at only one job.

Personal Statement Essays Teaching and Spanish Majors

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.

Education is the key that will open a door to a world of many opportunities for me. I know that free education is a gift because in Guatemala education has a very high price. I also know that getting an education will open doors to wider horizons. My goal is to pass all my English classes, which will help me improve my writing. By learning and perfecting my English, I can help tutor students that are having difficulties speaking English.

I would like to major in Spanish and receive my Associates Degree from MiraCosta College. I would then like to transfer to Cal State San Marcos and graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts in Spanish. My ultimate goal is to receive my teaching credential and become a Spanish teacher. By becoming a teacher, I know I will be able to impact the lives of many aspiring kids with bright futures ahead of them, just as I aspire for a future now.

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?

Although getting good grades and learning English are both very important to me, they are not the only main focuses in my life. One important responsibility that I have is church and arriving on time for service days because I am one of the main singers. When I arrive at church, I make it a personal responsibility to greet everyone and then I go help set up the musical equipment.

Another responsibility that I am lucky to have is being an active member of Friends of EOPS. By participating in the campus organization, I have learned that you have to be very friendly and responsible. I am able to state my opinions, thoughts, and overall build my own point of view. I am a friendly person who likes to have a smile on her face no matter how bad or good the day is.

I also help with the program Operation Hope, which is a homeless shelter for women and single mothers, and I volunteer at Vista High School tutoring the students with their Spanish homework. I like being very involved and responsible in helping my church, college and community.

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.

When I came to this country Spanish was my primary language, and English was a foreign language to me. To many peoples surprise, English and Spanish are both second languages to me because my first language is a dialect called Kanjobal, a native language from Guatemala. My first day of high school I could not speak, write, or read any English. At home, I spoke only Spanish with my siblings. This made it very difficult for me to do my schoolwork because I did not have help at home and because my educational background in Guatemala was limited as there I only went to school for four hours a day. To make matters worse in my new world, my high school teachers spoke to me only in English, I could not understand anything. I felt like I was living in three worlds, but I knew that I wanted a successful and prosperous future here in the United States, so I continued to work hard.

Coming to a new country can be hard, but not knowing the language is even harder. However, I believed in myself and I had the strength to overcome this obstacle. I learned to become responsible for my own education, and I started to take matters into my own hands. I did this by practicing my English in class every day and making sure I completed my homework. I soon found myself listening to anyone anywhere, who spoke English. A new curiosity to understand English had woken in me. More importantly, I persevered to learn English by reading books during my free time and breaks. I scheduled free time after school and asked for help

with English and even came to school on Saturday to practice on the computer language software program, Rosetta Stone. My faith and determination helped me learn English fast.

As an immigrant from Guatemala I have faced many obstacles and financial stability has proved to be the greatest one. In my family, only my stepfather works. My stepfather does not really help me with my studies, and not because he doesn't want to but because he already has many responsibilities, thus my mother is the only one who fully supports and believes in me that I will get far with my education. There have been days that I cry because I do not have the money to pay for my classes, but God always helps me meet people that are willing to help me with college. My mother always tries her best to help me, but it is difficult for her to get a job. I know that when I complete my studies I will help those like myself by giving and proving for others just as others gave to me.

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