

Personal Statement

Coming to America at a young age was rough, having to learn a new language and learning about North America instead of South America like I was used to, this made me feel like I was always one step behind other students. However, Growing up in the American school system. My two favorite core classes have always been Math and Science. This is because numbers and equations go beyond the language barrier and Science systems, cycles, and processes remain the same despite having different names. After, continuing my education journey. It became evident to me that I was better at science than I was at Math. In High school, is where I realized my passion for Biology. This is why when I came to Longwood University, I not only became the first person in my family to attend a 4-year University, but I also declared Biology as my major.

When I first started my college journey I did not believe there was a difference between being a First Generation student and having parents that attended college. My first experience with discovering the difference was when I was registering for the second semester of my freshman year. My roommate at the time called his father to advise him about what classes to take and how many he should take at a time. When I called my father, the only words of advise I received were to take as many classes as I possibly can because I do not do anything else but go to school. I do not blame my father because he has never taken a college class so he does not know how rigorous it was. However, my father's advice caused me to not do as well as I wanted in some courses because others were doing 14-16 credits while I was stuck doing 18 credits.

Around this time my family had and operated a restaurant. It was a family business so everyone from my brothers to my aunts and uncles helped out. This came around my sophomore year. I would visit my family every weekend or every other weekend to help out with the business. I did this because my father gave me the greatest gift any college student could ask for; he was paying my tuition so because my father was helping me realize my dream of attending school. I came home every weekend whenever he needed me to work so that I could help him realize his dream of owning a successful business. This kind gesture made me not do as well as I wanted in some classes. However, I never once let him know that because I did not want to disappoint him.

All these bumps on the road to my degree made me question if I was ever going to finish my degree on time. I began to doubt myself and fell into a slight depression state and did worse in school. It was not until I met with a Mentor who was that bridge between my academic career and my family issues that I began to perform better in the classroom. In my Junior year, I accomplished something that I have never thought I could ever accomplish. This achievement was turning in every single assignment I had that semester. This brought joy to my life again and made me believe that I could go to graduate school. The first semester of my Senior year was my

best semester yet. I achieved a better accomplishment which was, I did not receive a C in any class. I got straight A's and B's that semester which solidified my goal to attend graduate school.

Now that I have learned how college life operates and how to manage my college life with my family life. I am helping my brother who is going into his first year of college, how to succeed. This newfound confidence in my education has helped me attain research opportunities. My career aspiration is to be a Medical Science Liaison, I want to do this by continuing my academic career and getting a Master's degree in Molecular Medicine from Liberty University Then getting a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from Old Dominion University. What sets me apart from other applicants is my ability to adapt to difficult situations whether that be in research or the classroom. I declared my major only liking Biology and I am finishing my degree having Biology be my passion.