

You know nothing about me; I'm a name on a page, no different from the other faces in the throng, eager to gain admission to the University of Washington. So as you read this, you are searching for individuality - someone who stands out. This person should have more than just a facade of excellence, but be genuine with an insightful mind and enthusiasm for academics, your school, and his or her ability to forge ahead. How can it be possible to convey all that in just 1000 words? If you stick with me I'll show you why I am uniquely qualified for this program. It's been a dream of mine since childhood to attend UW, and here's where I'm going to convince you that I should be accepted as a Husky.

Let's start out with my unconventional high school experience. I received my diploma after participating in the home-school program provided by Vashon High School called "Family Link." During that time I also furthered my education through "Running Start" at Tacoma Community College, which allowed me to earn dual credit and come within 15 credit hours of an Associates Degree in Arts and Sciences. From that narrative you probably have a mental image of a sheltered home-schooled student, shy and reclusive, but don't jump to conclusions just yet! It's been my challenge to subvert those preconceived notions and stereotypes. For one thing, I was heavily involved in sports, a starter in football for three years and for four in track and field. Yes, that was the home-schooled student, leading the high school football team in rushing, helping give our team the first trip to the state playoffs in school history. Needless to say, juggling a full course load at TCC, athletics, and a part-time job waiting tables was a challenge. At times I felt overwhelmed, but I worked diligently and now am excited to be finishing my Associate in Arts and Sciences at TCC in the Spring, setting myself up to give my all to the University of Washington in the Fall.

Directly after high school I enrolled in the Joshua Wilderness Institute (JWI) at Hume Lake, which is a religious internship that is entirely immersive and equally intense. I attribute a great deal of my growth and development as an individual to this program. At JWI we were taught strict discipline. Among other stringent rules, we signed a contract to refrain from indulging in any kind of media, video or audio, for nine months. The intent was to teach self-control and an ability to focus fully on the task at hand. On weekday mornings we would participate in religious studies, have a break in the afternoon, and go back to our studies in the evening. Every weekend we worked to help offset the cost of our tuition. I thought I was busy in high school, but I've never been more occupied and engaged than I was at JWI. Sprinkled into our schedule were various domestic and foreign trips, including volunteer work providing food for the homeless in Los Angeles, serving an orphanage for deaf children in Mexico, building a retaining wall around a women's center in the Dominican Republic, and two weeks immersing ourselves in the incredible culture of Israel. The depth of knowledge I gained at JWI is immeasurable. Experiencing diverse cultures taught me to humbly observe the world and learn that the world is clearly much larger than I am - I'm just here for the ride.

After I finished JWI, I knew I wanted to go to the University of Washington, but didn't know how to pay for it. With this in mind, the Navy was a natural next step. I thought it would provide an opportunity to explore a field of interest, potentially see the world, and eventually pay for my higher education. Because I scored in the 93rd percentile on the vocational test, I was even afforded the opportunity to choose any occupation. However, because they did not give me much

time to research potential positions, I picked the Advanced Electronics Computer Field, which would give me the title of Electronic Technician. This meant performing preventative and corrective maintenance on communications equipment. It should have been an ideal situation, but I discovered that though I was naturally adept and excelled in my training, I ultimately didn't have very much interest in electronics or electrical engineering. I was also responsible for maintaining stock and ordering replacement repair parts, holding the title of Repair Parts Petty Officer (RPPO). I excelled as both an RPPO and a technician, however a sailor's life was simply not the life for me. My experience had taught me to be self-reliant and to follow my individual inspiration whereas the Navy valued only conformity. This ultimately led to the Navy and I parting ways - I was given an honorable discharge on January 9th, 2015.

Through my work in the Navy and in my general independence, I have developed a mind for business and therefore it is my intention to pursue a degree in business management. In particular, I have a dream of working in the coffee industry, whether for a large corporation like Starbucks or a smaller independent roasterie. Studies at The Foster School of Business will be the perfect catalyst for pursuing that goal. I plan on transferring to the UW with an Associate in Arts and Sciences and completing prerequisites at the UW while applying to Foster School of Business.

After all the information I just spilled, I'll bet I'm no longer just a name on a page to you. And there's even more to the name XXXX than you realize. In 1000 words I've given you just a glimpse of what kind of asset I can be to this school. Now it's up to you to accept me into your esteemed community and watch me flourish at the University of Washington.