



Dear Lavanya,

I am writing to you just a few days before you graduate from UNO.

It's May 2022, and I know you're nervous for the new year and new school, but even more excited for all the possibilities that being in a different environment brings. You meet so many new and amazing people through your activities, but make sure that you set aside some personal time to take care of yourself.

Your undergraduate degree and program ends up being one of the best choices you've made in your life, because it's not what you initially expected it to be. Almost none of your plans end up working out entirely but your hard work and dedication pays off in the end.

The worldwide pandemic that starts during your sophomore year throws a distinct wrench in your ambitions, but you learn to overcome that. You learn that you can conquer anything you set your mind to, because in spite of your Zoom classes teach you well. But these new experiences also make you question yourself, your abilities, and your academic path. But Lavanya, please don't worry. Don't look down but look around.

Soon, you will see how your fears are assuaged by the guidance and support from those around you- your friends, family, mentors, and professors. They help you open so many doors and expand your perspective to so many new ideas that your worldview is permanently changed for the better.

Your scholarship program particularly shows you how impactful small actions can be on your community and you will begin to understand that your academics can be more than just a degree, but a way to change the world. Cherish these relationships and opportunities as you reflect upon them, they will stay with you forever as treasured memories and the time will pass by much faster than it seems.

You would not believe how much you have accomplished in the past few years and in a vastly different world from the year that you started your undergraduate degree. Be sure to take some time to stop and smell the roses every once in a while. Congratulations on two degrees and three minors and a multitude of experiences that you'll never forget. Know that your potential is limitless and all that work was really worth it in the end.

**Good luck on your next adventure,
Lavanya**