

My Education Plans and Career Goals

In 2002, I experienced an unwanted divorce. At that time, I had been a housewife (working only part-time) for more than eleven years; and although I had a store of self-taught computer skills, I really had nothing that would be considered “marketable” in today’s job market. Accordingly, my first concern was for my financial future, and I quickly realized that my best option was to pursue more education to better myself and increase my chances of obtaining a position that would offer a living wage with benefits.

Subsequently, I enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Omaha as a full-time student in the fall of 2002. Since then my plans for education have included learning as much as I can about the administration of business and the field of Accounting. One reason for this choice is I feel there is a great opportunity to apply my knowledge in a variety of employment settings. In addition, I have always had an excellent memory for numbers, and I enjoy compiling reports regarding finances. I also enjoy helping people.

I am currently pursuing an Associate in Arts transfer degree at Metro Community College. After I graduate, I will be transferring to University of Nebraska-Omaha to complete my BA in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. My long-term goal is to obtain a CPA license. I have thought I would like to work in the accounting department of a corporation or with a firm that provides financial services to corporations.

Financing My Education

Before entering college in 2002, I applied for a vocational program through the state of Nebraska. The state agency paid for my tuition and books during the first four quarters at Metro Community College. I also completed a FAFSA and received a Pell Grant and a State Need Grant.

Then at the beginning of Winter Quarter, 2004, I made a decision to change my educational objective from a vocational *Associate in Arts & Applied Sciences* to an *Associate in Arts* academic transfer degree. As a result of this decision the state agency, a major source of funding in the past, informed me they could no longer provide financial assistance because they cater only to vocational students. Since then I have taken part-time jobs (both work-study and traditional) to supplement my income so that I may continue my education and still pay my rent. At this time, I am working nearly 20 hours a week in addition to attending full-time classes, but it won't be enough to achieve my goal if I am unsuccessful in obtaining scholarships.

I plan to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Business, with a major in Accounting. To achieve this I will use my Pell Grant, State Need Grant, and any scholarships that I can obtain to finance my education. I will also be working as much as possible without jeopardizing my ability to excel in my studies. Maintaining a high GPA is important to me, so I will continue to pursue excellence.