

College was without doubt the roughest time in my life. I grew up in an academically oriented family. My parents were adamant about education and strove to provide the best quality of education their means allowed. Against my parents' advice, who wanted me to study medicine, I elected to pursue my passion for technology and earn a degree in Mechatronics Engineering.

Shortly after beginning college at the University of Jordan I realized that the school was in a state of rapid decline. Classes were extremely overcrowded, the aging infrastructure was crumbling, and the previously Western educated faculty was being replaced by a locally educated, less-qualified cohort. Despite being the most selective school in the country and thereby having some of the most highly qualified students, class failure rates were upwards of 60%. Students often repeated courses five or six times.

I began searching for opportunities to transfer to a university abroad. Unfortunately, I could not financially afford it. Meanwhile, as I felt consumed by the stigma of failure, I did not want to go back to my family and disappoint them. I felt increasingly isolated and I did not know where to turn for guidance.

Looking back, I should have asked my loved ones for help and put in the extra effort to adapt and do whatever was necessary to overcome this challenge. Instead, when life threw me my first serious curve ball, it knocked me out. I lost all motivation, I stopped going to classes, my self-esteem took a big hit, and I descended towards rock bottom. My former academic success was all but forgotten and I slowly settled for doing the bare minimum and becoming an average student, quite literally; I finished one semester late and around the fiftieth percentile of my class.

Fortunately, things improved after I started at Philip Morris International. Working life was a fresh start, and I was determined to never again settle for anything less than exceptional. With every new success I regained confidence and returned to the person I once was. I have progressed rapidly, and in May I was assigned to one of the largest affiliates, in Izmir, Turkey. Such assignments are indicative of an accelerated career path and an investment by the company into their top talent.

Furthermore, I have tried to demonstrate my ability to handle the curriculum, despite my poor undergraduate record. In addition to doing my best to get a good score on the GMAT, I am taking Calculus 1 and Introduction to Financial accounting through Berkeley extension. I have 100% in Calculus and 96% in Financial Accounting. Only the final exams are remaining, and they are scheduled for mid-October.

For my recommenders, I chose the people who know me best. I refrained from approaching my current supervisor, due to our relatively short relationship.

Also, I included fixed per-diems, travel and hardship allowances and accommodation payments as bonus compensation when reporting my salary on the application.

I truly hope for a second chance to re-immersify myself in academics and succeed at Fuqua, and to pursue my goals and achieve my full potential.