To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to appeal my academic dismissal from the Medical University of the Americas. I would like to start by stating that I take this dismissal very seriously and appreciate the opportunity to explain my circumstances.

The Fall 2017 semester was very difficult for me and my grades suffered as a result. The two hurricanes that affected the island and consequently the semester schedule, contributed greatly to my falling short. I struggled primarily with the additional Saturday classes occurring 11 out of the 13 weeks in the semester. I truly did try my very best throughout the semester and although it is not in my nature to complain about my circumstances, I would like to note that my mother lives in South Florida and was affected by Hurricane Maria. My mother is on disability and I do not have any extended family there to take care of her. So, while our island was recovering and we were heading back to class, I had the added stress of my mother going through a potentially catastrophic hurricane. This stress in the first 4 weeks of the semester was paramount to my not being able to perform as I had intended. In Metabolism and Nutrition, I did much better on my second and third exams, as well as my Team Based Learning exercises but not well enough I’m afraid, falling 3 percentage points short of what is needed to pass. In Infectious Disease & Response where I am 4 percentage points short of what is needed to pass, I know that the stress I was experiencing from home as well as my limited self-study time to be major factors in not being able to master the material.

Throughout the semester, I felt I could balance my stress, my home life and my limited self-study time and although I did try my best, it appears I was wrong. I do feel that I have been thriving on the island and at MUA and find the course load and expectations very fair and I know for certain if I were to be reinstated, I would work tirelessly to manage my time more wisely by working to participate more actively in class and working more closely with my professors.

Please understand that while I accept wholeheartedly the weight and consequence of not passing two courses, I can assure you that this does not indicate that I am unable to do the work or that I find the concepts too hard. I am a hardworking and thoroughly diligent student. I hope you will give me a second chance. Thank you for considering this appeal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Menard