

Statement of Academic and Career Objectives

I first learned about the College Student Services Administration Program while working as a Graduate Assistant at the Career Development Center. I became friends with a number of students in the program including Marcella Flores and Rebecca Jo Schaffeld. At the time I thought that I was passing through in pursuit of a career in an analytical position at a healthcare company. I currently am working as a Software Engineer at Cambia Health Solutions but realized that my love and passion is for student affairs and academia. My reason for applying to the CSSA Program is to open up the opportunity for a career in Student Affairs and also to strengthen both my knowledge and confidence in this area.

I love working with students and first began working with other students while still an undergraduate. I was fortunate to be hired by the OSU Athletics Department as a Student Athlete Tutor. After my undergraduate degree, I gained my master's degree in the College of Engineering where I worked as a Teaching Assistant and as an Instructor at both OSU and LBCC.

The CSSA program would allow me to bridge the gap from where I currently am and open a door for me to pursue my short term and long term career objectives. My short term objectives is to hopefully become a graduate student in the CSSA program. During this program I hope to make strong connections with my cohort and the faculty and staff in the Department. The five program competencies all stand out as areas I hope to strengthen my background in. I specifically want to focus on my knowledge and understanding of student populations and student development and also I hope to grow and develop professionally. Having met a lot of students in the CSSA Program I was always struck by their kindness, willingness to help and professionalism.

When I began to explore Student Affairs as a career I reached out and met with my friend Rebecca as I had an interest in becoming a Resident Director but didn't know where to start with limited housing and dining experience. Since then I have spent a lot of time speaking with her about her role and the duties and the responsibilities this position entails. I also reached out and met with a number of other Resident Directors and University Housing and Dining Staff.

Upon graduation I hope to move into a role as a Resident Director. My goal is to build a welcoming, inclusive community that allows incoming students to have the best possible experience. Not only would I want students from all backgrounds to feel welcome from the moment they arrive on campus I also want to work with the other Resident Assistants to create a place for the students to connect and thrive personally and professionally.

While I do hope to become a Resident Director I also am aware of the rich opportunities including careers in Disability Services, Career Development, Intercollegiate Athletics and New Student Programs and Family Outreach to name just a few. I would be happy and honored to work with students in any of these areas and also am interested in potentially working more with the Athletics Department.

My long term goals include being active in the field of student affairs and potentially pursuing a PhD. I would love to potentially move into a leadership role at a university where I could make a positive difference for students, staff, faculty and the community as a whole.

In closing, I wanted to mention a few unique elements of my background I feel I would be able to bring the Program. I have a passion for innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. This interest led me to work at the OSU Venture Accelerator and as a Senior Capstone Project Sponsor for the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Technology is rapidly changing every aspect of our lives including the delivery of higher education. Universities are placing a higher emphasis on not just research but the Commercialization of this research. In fact Poling Hall is specially designed as a Living Learning Community known as the Innovation Nation. I think that my unique background could allow me to bring unique and novel ideas to spark new ways of being a successful practitioner-scholar and to create bridges between Departments that can benefit students.