**Please provide a short paragraph (limit 100 words) describing the characteristics that suit you to graduate school. \***

There are a number of reasons I feel that I would be suited for graduate school. One of the major reasons is that I have successfully completed a graduate level master’s degree in the College of Engineering and also my MBA. I have experience working as a teaching assistant and instructor at OSU and LBCC. Another major reason is that my goal is to become a professor and I would bring the desire to do well academically, find my research focus, publish, attend conferences and become an active and engaged member of the College of Forestry.

**Please provide a description of any research experience you've had, your responsibilities in that research and the skills and knowledge you gained from that experience. \***

The primary research experience I gained was while pursuing my master’s degree in the College of Engineering. My research involved developing radiation detection software and was funded through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I built upon existing research and the data I had collected to create algorithms which I used to develop the software. Some of the skills include working in a scientific laboratory, data collection and analysis, working with a graduate advisor, co-authoring a grant and taking a research project from start to finish.

**Please provide a description of any paid or volunteer work experiences you've completed. Describe your responsibilities, the skills or knowledge you gained through the experiences and how they contribute to your preparation for graduate school. \***

In my role as a Software Developer at Cambia Health Solutions I have worked on a number of large complex software systems in an agile development environment. My daily work involves solving problems independently and with a team. Before this I worked at OSU as a Programmer Analyst where one of my primary functions was analyzing data and preparing reports for university leadership. I utilized Java, Python, R and a number of other data tools and frameworks that would be directly applicable to academic research. I feel my experience as an instructor will help me in my graduate level courses.

There are three main work experiences I have had since graduating that have prepared me for graduate school including working as an Instructor at OSU and LBCC, a Programmer Analyst at OSU and as a Software Developer at Cambia Health Solutions.

**Cambia Software Developer**

I currently work as a software engineer at Cambia Health Solutions. My responsibility is working in an Agile Development Environment where I am helping to migrate extensive legacy code into smaller components. Another major component of my position is handling and fixing issues found by our business users. There are a number of skills I feel would translate from this position to my ability to be successful as a graduate student in the College of Forestry. One of the major ones has been getting up to speed on a large system with very little resources for learning. This has allowed me the opportunity to strengthen my ability to work both independently and with a team to solve complicated problems. I have also learned new ways to handle large, complex projects in an efficient and timely manner.

**Business Analyst**

Before working at Cambia I worked in the Office of Student Life at Oregon State University. I worked as a Programmer and Business Analyst but one of the primary responsibilities of my position was data gathering and data analysis. I led a project to gather five years of past financial and demographic data for the Career Development Center. The data was scattered all over and I utilized Python and Java to gather, code and analyze the massive amount of information. While I was not working to solve a specific hypothesis the data component of this role was similar to how I would work with data while conducting research.

**Instructor**

Finally, I have worked at different times as a Teaching Assistant and Instructor. I feel that one of the most important skills I have gained from this experience is the ability to think more deeply about a subject. This has been especially important in areas like calculus and statistics where I feel that I missed many of the important aspects while taking these courses as an undergraduate. I also think it will help me as I return to taking courses since I will have a new perspective on the material being presented. I really enjoy teaching and hope that I will be able to work as a teaching assistant or an instructor while a graduate student in the College.

**Please provide a description of the research areas that interest you and any ideas for specific research that you have formulated (seehttp://fes.forestry.oregonstate.edu/research).**

My goal is to pursue a master’s degree in the Forest Ecosystems and Society program. I hope to define my specific research interests more clearly over the course of my master’s degree and that this can lay the foundations for further research as a doctoral student. I also hope that my research will build upon my previous experience utilizing computational methodology and data and statistical analysis. I think these tools will be useful in both ecological modeling and the social aspects of research in the field.

I found interesting research in all of the seven general areas but will briefly discuss some of the particular areas that stood out as aligned with my previous experience and personal interests. I was particularly drawn to research in the Forest, Wildlife and Landscape Ecology focus. I am interested in researching how systems interact and was fascinated by the many tools being used things like simulation modeling and remote sensing. I feel this field would be engaging and open many opportunities for future research throughout my academic career. Some of the particular programs that stood out included the research being conducted in the LARSE, TERRA and Betts Forest Landscape Ecology Lab.

The other areas that stood out to me were the Integrated Social and Ecological Systems and the Science of Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management. I felt that my social and management skills gained during my MBA could integrate well into this research. One example of the type of research that stood out was that being conducted by the Forests, Livelihoods, Institutions, and Governance (FoLIAGe) Group.

**Please provide a list of any awards or recognition you've received.**

**Achievement Rewards for College Scientists**

**Fellow**

* Nominated by Faculty and Selected for ARCS Fellowship providing $6,000 per year fellowship

**Grant Winner for Digital Radiation Software Design**

* $8,000 dollar grant for software design

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Research Grant**

* Full tuition and .49 Salary

**National Science Foundation**

* Honorable Mention for original Thesis Proposal which changed

**Legacy Health System Scholar**

* Nominated by faculty and selected for Legacy Health System Scholarship

**Dosimetry Group Project Manager**

* Graduate representative of Dosimetry Project for NE/RHP Dosimetry 490/590

**US Department of Energy Scholarship for Nuclear Engineering/Radiation Health Physics**

* Interviewed and was chosen for an undergraduate scholarship

**Mortar Board National Honor Society**

* Nominated for and selected to be involved in Mortar Board National Honor Society

**Please provide a list of potential major professors in our program with whom you have communicated (e.g., in person, by phone, or by email) and describe any agreements you have come to with them. See http://fes.forestry.oregonstate.edu/graduate-programs/your-major-professor. If you have not communicated with any potential major professors please indicate that as well.**

I am planning to begin reaching out to Professors this term. I realize how important this is and depending on their schedule hope to begin meeting with faculty whose research interests me as soon as they have time.

**Please provide a list of potential major professors with whom you would like to work.**

**Forest Landscape and Landscape Ecology**

John Bailey

Meg Krawchuk

Chris Still

Mark Harmon

Barb Lachenbruch

Steven Perakis

Jim Rivers

Dana Warren

Steve Strauss

Ashley D'Antonio

**Integrated Social and Ecological Systems**

Matthew G. Betts

Lisa Ganio

Reem Hajjar

Michael Paul Nelson

Badege Bishaw

Ian Munanura

Emily Jane Davis