**Question 1**

**MAIS applicants:** Describe what you want to study and why you are choosing an interdisciplinary degree. Include a rationale for the necessity of integrating your three chosen fields in order to meet your academic goals.

Being an instructor has allowed me to keep learning and implementing new ways to create a welcoming environment. I just finished teaching an Agriculture course. As a first time instructor in the Agricultural Department the Dean of Instruction and interim Dean of Agricultural Science sat in on one of my courses. She wrote this as part of my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” I was excited to receive this feedback, especially given how nervous I was having the Dean sitting in on my class.

**Question 2**

*The CSSA program values the role it has in preparing students for practitioner roles in the field of Student Affairs. Our program revolves around the idea of the practitioner-scholar as a framework for working within and contributing to the field of higher education. Please describe how your previous work and educational and personal experiences would contribute to and be enhanced by an educational experience that puts practice informed by scholarship at the center. \**

CSSA Practitioner Scholar- Vasquez

CSSA Social Justice- Vasquez

I previously gained my MBA with a focus on Entrepreneurship and it was here that I perhaps saw the divide that can sometimes exist between practice and scholar. One of my favorite entrepreneurs, Duncan Bannatyne, had little formal education and was put in the Colchester military detention center for throwing his commanding officer over the side of an aircraft carrier. Yet his massive business empire shows as deep an understanding as the most established scholar who may a have deep understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of agency theory but not know the feeling of having to sleep in your car because your business is not generating revenue. However, both practice and scholarship are deeply needed and are even more effective when they can be combined.

While I have a lot to learn about the ideas of being a practitioner-scholar I feel my work and education experience would both allow me to contribute to and be enhanced by the CSSA program. One major part of my background would be my work as an Instructor at both Oregon State University and LBCC. My interest in Entrepreneurship would be a good example of where I have previously bridged these areas. During my MBA I worked a lot in the area of scholarship reading peer reviewed articles and working with faculty on their research. I also worked to bridge the gap by being involved in the OSU startup community, working at the OSU Venture Accelerator and working part time with an OSU spinoff that is developing software for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As I mention in my statement of objectives I hope to work in Resident Life hopefully as a Resident Director. One of my goals for joining the CSSA program is to become better at being a practitioner-scholar. I may have an incomplete understanding of this framework as a way to contribute to the field of higher education but I will explain my view of its role in Resident Life below. I feel this focus would benefit me by being able to bring in scientifically sound methodology to my career. For instance, I have a strong desire to create a welcoming and inclusive community. Currently, I have no experience as a Resident Director and am not aware of the ways I could do this. By speaking to others and gaining education from leaders in this field I could begin to implement sound ideas that fit the particular University and Housing and Dining team I am a part of.

Some ways I feel I could contribute to the CSSA program include my background engaging in research and also in utilizing and building technology. Most important though I view myself learning a lot and bridging my unique skill set and preparing me to be an effective scholar actively engaged in contributing to the field of higher education on a personal student by student basis.

**Question 3**

There have been a number of experiences that I have been involved with that have helped to shape my understanding of social justice. However, I feel strongly that if accepted into the CSSA program this would be one of the most fundamental areas of learning for me. My first experiences that helped me to gain an understanding of social justice was working at the Career Development Center as a student. During this time I worked with a number of graduate students in the CSSA program including Marcella Flores and Rebecca Jo Schaffeld. I was exposed to a lot of concepts and ideas that were new and challenging to me. I think what challenged me the most is these concepts are deeply personal and affect every aspect of our lives.

Our conversations also solidified into personal experiences that have helped me to grow as a person. I will discuss two personal experiences that have really helped me to grow. One was when I attended the Students Speak Out Even at Oregon State University. What I learned from this event is that I can not subconsciously extrapolate my 0individual experience onto others. I can’t think how amazing the OSU community is and since I have had this experience everyone else must have had this experience. A second experience for me is one of my best friends is a DACA recipient. We talk a lot of I am able to see first hand the worries her and her family go through; worries I never have to experience.

My background includes a lot of work with students including working as an Instructor at both Oregon State University and Linn Benton Community College. However, I have never had any formal training into areas of social justice and feel reluctant to be able to speak or address areas related to this. I want this to change and feel this program would be the ideal way for me to learn about and gain confidence not only to speak on these issues but to help be a driver of change. One of the reasons I hope to enter this program is to work in Resident Life, hopefully as a Resident Director. My long term plan is to also hopefully continue work as an Instructor. This career path will allow me the incredible opportunity to work with students, faculty, staff and community members and I want to have the knowledge and confidence to be a support, listener and change enabler.