

1. At the time of my withdrawal from the University of Maryland, College Park, I was 21 years old unsure of what I wanted to do with my life. I was working full time and taking a full course load, as well as learning to manage my time and finances. I was ill prepared to succeed in a college environment, and i had little or no support outside of school. Unable to balance work, school, and major life decisions, I withdrew.

2. I left the University of Maryland 20 years ago. In that time, I have graduated from Nursing school, married, raised 2 children, and learned to manage my household budget. I attended and graduated from Nursing School while my eldest child was still a toddler, forcing me to learn to study when and where i could, teaching me to make the most of every minute. I have worked as a nurse in pediatrics for the last 13 years both as a floor nurse and as a case manager, learning to stay on task and keep moving forward. Three years ago when the housing market took a down turn, my husband lost his business and we lost our savings and our home. I worked two full-time jobs, seven days a week, for a year to help get us through while he searched for a job. During that time I continued to be the primary caregiver for our children, and to maintain the house and and finances. I believe I have learned to prioritize well, and to balance my time effectively to be successful.

Thank you,
Laura Bellotte