

(1) What circumstances led to your withdrawal, or what issues contributed to your academic dismissal?

The circumstances that led to my academic dismissal revolved around the fact that I was a student athlete. You see, as a relief pitcher on the baseball team, we played 56 games from the end of February into May. Such a grueling schedule made keeping up with my classes difficult. I honestly did my best, but it always seemed like an uphill battle.

Things got bad one particular semester as I failed 2 classes, dropping my GPA to an embarrassingly low level. It was then that I was academically dismissed. My playing days were over, and I took a full year off. When I returned, I changed my major, buckled down, and began getting better grades. The only problem was, even though I was doing better, my GPA never fully recovered. I was dismissed a couple more times, but it was not because I was doing poorly, rather it was the GPA issue.

Spring '99 was my last semester, and I was all set to graduate. But for some reason (no doubt my ADHD kicking in), I failed to turn in one paper in a class, resulting in an "Incomplete". Also, I received a C in a Spanish class that I deserved at least a B in. I begged my teacher for the opportunity to do extra credit, but she wouldn't budge. That, and the Incomplete pushed my GPA back below whatever it was it needed to be.

My days at the University of Maryland were over, one class away from earning my degree. It has remained the single biggest regret of my life.

Over the years, I kept in contact with Professor Allan Cate (the Professor I got the Incomplete from) and he told me I could turn the paper in and get the credit for the class. And over the years, I would start to write the paper, only to stop as the realities of life got in the way. I got a job, got married, had a beautiful daughter and seen the hairs on my head begin to fall out. I am now 38 years old, and want desperately to resolve this.

(2) What have you done to remedy the circumstances or issues that led to your withdrawal or academic dismissal?

Quite simply, I have matured immensely since 1999. Like I said, I am now married with a little 5 year old kindergartner. I wake up each morning lucky enough to be able to make her lunch and see her off on the school bus. I am a different person, and I know that if I was given the chance, I would work extremely hard to finally earn my degree.

In addition, I feel that my experience in the workforce has taught me the time management skills needed to excel in my schoolwork. I have taken some sales classes that dealt with this issue, and I incorporate them into my everyday work. I am the type of person that, once I set a goal, I will not stop until I achieve it. I have set this goal for myself, and I hope to be given the chance to be reenrolled so that I may do it.

Thank you,
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