

1/7/13

During the past two semesters, I have struggled academically due to study habits, outside distractions, and test taking. My first semester at the University of Maryland (UMD) was the spring of 2012. I had transferred from the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) where I had obtained a 3.25 GPA with 43 credits. I had worked extremely hard to get into UMD. When I came to Maryland I realized everything was much different than of CCBC. I had to adjust to the bigger classes and fast-pace of the courses. Tests were also much more challenging than the tests at CCBC. I studied long hours for my tests, but I did not get the desired grades that I wanted. These poor grades on my tests set me back and helped me dig myself into a big hole for the next semester. My first semester, I was set to be a kinesiology major, but upon seeing the classes I had to take, math and science in particular, I elected not to declare any major until I was sure. This previous semester fall of 2012, I finally decided to declare kinesiology. It was not a very well thought out plan on my part because I was placed on academic probation with a 1.75 GPA, yet I decided to take very hard classes, such as BSCI105 and MATH112. At CCBC I received, mostly all A's, but I received a D in MATH163, which is almost the same as the math I took last semester. Leading up to the math final, I had a B in the class. The week of the final, I felt anxious and nervous because it was a lot of information to know, and my grandmother was put in the hospital, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, as well. She was fighting for her life, and I was not able to study much because I was worrying about her. Although it is no excuse to fail my final, I was felt unprepared mentally and started to feel nervous while taking the test. I did not feel as if I was given enough time so I had to rush most of it. That semester I also took KNES287, which was an online class. I had done well in that class for the most part. I received a total grade of a 582.5 out of 720, resulting in a B. This would have put me at a 2.0; however, the class was curved down giving me approximately a 75%.

However, I had done much better that semester than the first semester, receiving two A's. There had been an increase in my GPA last semester when I earned a 2.125 GPA; in my first semester, I received a 1.75. In my opinion, I had studied exceptionally well and finished my work on time, but it all came down to my final in math and to my curve situation in my KNES class. Currently my GPA is a 1.9, so I finished .1 of meeting the cumulative GPA requirement.

I have made many changes to ensure a better academic future for myself if I am reinstated.

Currently, I am taking EDCP108B in order to get my GPA up to a 2.0. I can acquire that with an A or an A+ in. Also, I had changed my major to History before the end of last semester. I had always been very indecisive about majoring in Kinesiology because I am not strong in math and sciences, whereas I had always been interested and skilled in the study of history. In order to build my GPA next semester, I intend to take advantage of the resources around campus and keep in touch with my professors and TA's throughout the semester. I also intend to learn how to study and apply those techniques to other classes in the future. My main problem is that I don't study the proper way. I have been working hard toward studying properly for exams. Focusing is a crucial part of the problem as well. I intend to go to Disability Support Service (DSS) to find out what support is available, especially for test-taking and possible coaching at DSS or Learning Assistance Service (LAS) and possibly receive extended testing, as I was granted in high school. This semester I have met with advisors Erin Thiel and Darius Green to assist me with my future at UMD. They have been a great help to me in determining what I need to do to be successful and achieve my goals. I am one-hundred percent positive that I can enhance my study skills and progress as a student if I am given a second chance. If I am granted extended testing, I will feel much better about my test anxiety and be able to focus without rushing. I intend to do everything in my power to keep myself from being in this situation again. I am a motivated and hard-working student, but there are simple actions I need to take in order to change my outcomes.

