

Maria Paola Ferreyra

WLC 300 Personal Statement

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As a child when I went to a doctor's office, I knew that when I grew up I wanted to help people from all aspects of life. I thought that the only way to help others was to become a doctor. However, my perspective completely changed when I enrolled in my first Spanish course in high school. Originally, my plan was to meet my foreign language requirements and I naively thought that Spanish was going to be an easy course. However, I soon realized that I was mistaken and it turned to be one of the most challenging courses I have ever taken. Eventually, I fell in love with the history of the Spanish language and literature. I became so passionate about various different literary works to the point where I would find myself reading and analyzing literature into very early in the morning. At first I thought that my interest in Spanish was just going to be a hobby, but then I was shown that there are unlimited opportunities within the Spanish major to make a difference in others people's lives. For that matter, I chose the Spanish major which has allow me to not only learn about others but also about my own heritage. I consider myself lucky to be able to love my major and know that I will be able to hold a profession that will not only benefit me, but also my community.

After my completion of my AA degree, the toughest decision I had to make was to choose the university to transfer. I knew that based on this decision, it would determine what kind of experiences I learned and what kind of connections I made. I chose CSUMB because I felt that the diversity of Spanish-speaking communities would assist me to integrate in different cultural situations. Therefore, my first semester has been a really enjoyable process. I have learned skills that go beyond simple academic terminology such as service learning in the community, integration of different values to adapt to a situation, and how to make connections that will help me grow. I have to say that I have met professors and fellow classmates that have challenged me outside of my comfort zone. These challenges have helped me in my college experience because it had shown me different ideas that I was not aware of such as citizen responsibility and involvement.

My Mexican heritage has had a big influence on what I want to achieve in the future. I am really familiar with the fact that education and medical care are not as readily accessible in Mexico and in other Latino communities. Therefore, I want to be able to help various individuals have more educational opportunities to achieve their potential. Although the simple idea of "helping people" is very vague, it has given me the basic stepping stones to my future. I am not quite sure yet how exactly I want to make a difference whether that be through education or governmental institutions. Upon completion of my education, my dream job would be to work for a nonprofit organization possibly in another country. I would like to work in another country so that will allow me to understand other communities' perspectives. I hope to have the opportunity to share my own personal experience and learn how others have worked to achieve their own goals.

Since there are a lot of future opportunities within the Spanish major, I feel that it is quite complicated to have a definite answer. That is why, my plans for the future personally seem really general or unorganized but I hope that through my education, those aspects will become more definite. One thing that I know for certain is that I am really passionate about Spanish and I know that this major will assist me in my success and in achieving all of my personal and professional goals.