

# Personal Statement

## Computer Science Student

### Education and Career Goals\*

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals; if undecided, state what you hope to gain from the college experience.

I am currently pursuing an A.A. degree in Computer Science, with the goal of transferring to a four-year university in the fall of 2016. My plan is to obtain a B.S. in Computer Science from either a California State University (CSU) or a University of California (UC), graduating in May of 2018. Upon graduation, it is my hope to find a career in either systems security or systems auditing. I have always been fascinated by computers and often find myself as the go to guy when friends and associates have issues with their computers; they just seem to make sense to me.

### Extracurricular Activities\*

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; for example, clubs, organizations, volunteer service, and sports activities. If applicable, describe your employment experience and how many hours you work per week. Do your activities relate to your education or career objective?

I am currently involved with a few different extracurricular activities. I am of service in Narcotics Anonymous on various levels; local, area and regional. I am the treasurer at one meeting, and a Group Service Representative (GSR) at another, which is responsible for representing local meetings at the Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous. I volunteer in the Math Learning Center at MiraCosta College for an average of 4 – 6 hours weekly as a tutor helping other students, and I am a member of the Computer Club. I also volunteer for 1 – 2 times per year, registering voters for The LGBTQ Center in San Diego, and at various regional events.

### Other Information about yourself\*

Please provide information you would like to share about yourself including accomplishments you are proud of, hardships or challenges you overcame in your life, scholarships and/or honors you received. Most important, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

I am a returning student to college after a 33-year absence. I attended college after graduating from high school but my focus at the time was not on my studies. I have also struggled with substance abuse for years, which culminated in a prison sentence for a possession charge. To say my life was a mess, would be an understatement, and it was hitting rock bottom that made me walk into the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. When I say that the 12-steps saved my life, I mean it in every way, physically, mentally and spiritually. It is through the 12-steps that I found the courage to return to school and am now pursuing my dreams with a set of realistic goals in mind.

I have been on Social Security Disability for eight years and I am using their Ticket to Work program to get off disability and become a contributing member of society, as opposed to a drain on the system.

My current income is barely covering my monthly living expenses and any scholarships I receive will allow me to continue my studies without trying to juggle a full-time job and attend school. If awarded a scholarship, I hope to upgrade my laptop for school as my current computer is eight years old and it is struggling to keep up with the workload I am demanding from it.