

## Example 8 (2016)

As I apply to the Doctor of Audiology program, I know my passion for this dynamic field was defined long before joining the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at *Name of University*. Throughout my life, I have felt a strong sense of responsibility to help others. In high school, I advocated for a classmate who was permanently changed due to a horrific car accident. Will and I worked together which give me the opportunity to help him strive for his best.

A combination of my enjoyment of helping others and my love for singing led me to want to help others who struggle to communicate. This prompted me to pursue Speech-Language Pathology. As I began coursework, I was introduced to the field of Audiology and realized the possibilities within this field are limitless.

Through Expressive Movement Initiative, I have the honor to teach movement to children with various special abilities. One of the goals of the organization is the "mentorship between our students and teachers;" we say mentorship because these kids teach us more than we will ever be able to teach them. A smart, energetic boy helped solidify my decision to become an Audiologist. He made me realize that before communication can begin, *hearing* the communication must occur. You can see the desire to communicate in his eyes and I want to help others like him find the sound so they may find their voice.

With this graduate degree, I want to be impactful to surrounding communities to allow for easier access to hearing technologies for all people, regardless of age and cognitive level. I want to use my experience with those who are differently abled to develop easier and more effective ways of diagnosing and treating their hearing loss. I want to advocate for the expansion of existing programs that improve this accessibility and create new programs to be inclusive of all. In the distant future, I hope to take these programs internationally to make a difference in places across the world.

I work hard to be a multi-faceted person who strives to achieve both within the classroom and while giving back to the community. I accomplish most with a full schedule and work through my stresses by staying organized and focused on the milestones ahead. Throughout my collegiate career, I maintained 15+ hours of coursework while working part-time conducting academic research for the *Name of University* in addition to my extracurricular activities. I am a problem solver and hard-worker; I will use my determination to set goals for my clients and approach needs with diverse methods in order to help others most effectively.

Recently, I received the opportunity to assist with research for the Hearing, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, and Outcomes (HERO) laboratory. Not only have I been welcomed to assist in the lab's ongoing research endeavors, my supervisor also challenged me to completing a project on my own. In working through my introductory audiology classes, I realized my dad

has all the signs of someone with a hearing loss; turning the TV up, insisting we are mumbling, yet in his words, "I pass all the hearing tests for the fire department." This sparked my interest in a research project that aims to determine firefighters' knowledge of, experiences with, and attitudes toward hearing loss and hearing conservation. We have worked to submit to AAA, and hope to submit to Oklahoma Research Day as well.

I am eager to begin learning all of the knowledge I can before making an impact on the clients I have the opportunity to treat during my fourth-year externship, and eventually as a clinical practitioner. While I do not have plans to begin a PhD immediately, I am hopeful to have the opportunity to gain more research experience so that one day I can serve as a mentor to future students. In the distant future, I would love for the opportunity to serve the audiology community in a university setting. I understand that completing a doctoral program is no easy task but I am determined to be successful alongside the Doctor of Audiology Class of 20##.