

Career Goals

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## Career Goals

When I started the program I hadn't planned on being a career Mom and that is exactly what I have become. I have spent more than a third of my life preparing to be a brilliant counselor and teacher. Now, I am not sure that I want to leave my daughter, Eleanor, to work full time in either of these positions. Currently, my ambitions are wrapped up in providing the best possible environment for the growth and development of Eleanor. As a Feminist this choice is a bit unorthodox but I believe that for now it is the right choice. The role of motherhood has changed the way that I look at nearly everything. As a result you will notice that my future career goals have changed since the start of my time here at the university.

At the start of the Counseling Education program I had planned to dedicate my life to teaching graduate students to become good counselors and counseling an underserved population. As I learned more about myself I began to see that taking on both of these positions would not allow me to fulfill the need that I have to be family centered. Moreover, through my internship experience I learned that I love teaching undergraduate psychology courses. This lesson directed me to focus on learning to be an

exceptional teacher. Hence, the following discussion of career goals is primarily regarding teaching.

One of my primary goals in the classroom is to create a safe environment for learning. This goal requires classroom management skills and the respect of your students. I have successfully employed a variety of classroom management techniques to establish a line of open communication among students and myself. Where I falter is in the area of redirecting students who are disrespectful of me. In the continuation of my work as an adjunct teacher I hope to overcome this challenge.

The important role that media plays in influencing students has become more and more apparent to me. Media can be used to illustrate complex concepts in the classroom. I realize that this is not a new idea but it is an area that I need to improve upon. So much of what I teach in psychology can be explored and expanded upon by pulling examples from music, television and current events. To do this I must stay abreast of what media is prevalent in the lives of my students.

Teaching provides us with a captive audience of individuals who will inevitably contribute to the condition of our world. This said it seems a waste to ask only of them to learn what is in the textbook. In my classroom

students are asked to learn about themselves and others in different circumstances. They are asked to acknowledge those things in their community that need attention. It is my goal now and hopefully forever to inspire students to learn and do more for themselves and our shared community than they previously thought was possible.

My research interests have always involved teaching. Initially in the program I had hoped to study the response of children with Attention Deficit Disorder to symptom management techniques. My current research area is regarding the perceptions of the counseling supervision relationship, which is somewhat comparable to the teacher student relationship. I am certain my current research will produce more questions about the dynamics and importance of relationship perceptions in the supervision/teaching situation. After completion of my dissertation I hope to continue exploration in this line of research.

My pursuit of excellence in the field of counseling has become one of my long term goals. Right now the fervor I have for teaching and parenting leaves no room for the commitment required of a counselor. Presently, I plan to keep an active license and participate in additional workshops and seminars that address clinical issues.

Ultimately, I would like to acquire independent licensure status and work serving children and families in a not for profit or sliding scale agency. This pursuit will be more feasible after I obtain additional confidence and experience as a teacher.

Completion of the above goals over the next five years will prepare me to serve in a full time position at a college or university at a graduate or undergraduate level. In this position I hope to do more of what I am doing now, loving teaching. It will also allow for my participation as a supervisor or advisor to students. My experience in these roles has been rewarding and it grants me the opportunity to continue fostering the well being and success of students. Finally, completion of these goals over this time span allows me to continue doing what I think is best for Eleanor and me.