

To earn a graduate degree, requires a great amount of course work, studying, enthusiasm and dedication. But that same dedication and enthusiasm can be applied to life and learning outside of the classroom, working in conjunction with coursework to create a more fully rounded, educated teacher, and community member. Learning outside of coursework has prepared me to be a teacher in a way that a classroom could not. I believe that my experiences throughout my life so far have prepared me to be an ideal candidate in Evergreens Master's in Teaching.

Throughout my adult life, I have held several service industry jobs including waiting tables and tending bar at numerous dining establishments. There was not a day at any of those jobs that went by quietly with the number of customers I served and the few displeased customers that were difficult to tolerate. Nonetheless, I treated each customer with tact and humility, while maintaining boundaries for myself, no matter how difficult they were. My service experience has taught me that every person just wants to be treated with decency even if they are incapable of reciprocating it at that moment, as well as conflict resolution does not have to evolve into escalation by either party. I know that as a teacher, I am bound to interact with a wide array of children and their parents from different backgrounds and that tough conversations are sure to ensue. However, I also know that I am poised to handle conflict by means of proper communication. Though some of these parents and students will need more support and encouragement than others, they will all be treated with tact and humility.

My most recent employment was as a behavioral technician for children with autism and related disabilities. I had a set of clients that I would meet with daily to help their children learn behavioral skills in a curriculum molded to the individual's needs. I learned a great deal about what is developmentally typical behavior and what is not. I also learned the importance of

treating each learner as an individual. This was the clearest example to me that everybody learns differently and that a subject can be taught from more than one angle. Math is the subject that I want to teach and though there is not a different way to do math, there are certainly different ways of teaching it to anyone. My students will be treated as equals in my classroom, but when any one of them requires further explanation or demonstration to understand the subject, I will be prepared with their observed behavior to better teach them according to their needs.

My experiences in my adult life have and still are preparing me for my future career as a teacher. I know that the patience, lesson planning, creativity, and supervision skills that I have learned through my employment will be useful and improved upon throughout my life. I hope to always be learning how to improve myself as a teacher and a person through things that I will continue to experience throughout the rest of my life.