

I received my B.A. in Sociology in 1993. At graduation it was not the degree that I had hoped to earn. My hopes were to major or minor in Plant Biology because I loved horticulture and everything science connected to it. My dream was to do silviculture research and to use that knowledge towards climate change and other worldly environmental concerns.

Upon transferring colleges to University of Puget Sound (UPS), I discovered they had recently ended their Plant Biology minor. Additionally, the cost difference of attending a private university versus a public institution was staggering. Though I regretted my decision to transfer, I pivoted to keep me on track for graduating and chose a major in which I had accumulated the most credits thus far: Sociology.

I loved Sociology though. All the courses I had taken at both TESC and UPS provided such amazing insight into human society. I learned so much about people at the local, state, national, and world levels, and it set me on a path of being a lifelong learner of human issues.

When I became a paraeducator, I discovered that to be a great teacher on any subject in public schools begins with sociology and finding connections with each other. If you recognize a student's diverse background and needs and provide them with lesson materials that fit their education plan, you are creating a path of success for them.

As a paraeducator I never miss connecting with a student by giving them a chance to explore more difficult subjects in unique ways. If a student is struggling with math but loves art, I teach them about fractals through art and drawing. Physics experiments are perfect for those that need hands-on projects. Everyday I use my Sociology degree to connect with and teach students. I still had my love for plant sciences though and nearly every week I introduce to my current students something interesting about how plants work.

An endorsement in Social Studies would be perfect, but I hope to also be endorsed in Middle Level Math or Middle Level Biology and possibly both. I want to bridge Sociology with Sciences and Math to create a classroom environment that welcomes all learners.