

How does my current academic and professional training prepare me to meet the expected learning outcomes of this program?

I work both in the non-instructional side and instructional side of community college. As a counselor and as a professor, I have a number of duties that require me to possess various skills including organizing, communicating, preparing, and leading to name a few.

In relation to the organizational strategy student learning outcome, I am involved in various campus wide committees and department committees. Deeper involvement in both the counseling department and on campus has allowed me to learn more about our campus faculty culture. Organizational strategy also includes improving services to students. Because I am in student services, I am able to play a large role in improving services. By definition of being a counselor, I am always concerned about student access and student success.

In terms of resource management, I am specifically in charge of the information online for various areas in the counseling department. Through this job, familiarity with the information, detailed organization, and creativity are all required to adequately maintain the Web sites. The Web sites include instructional resources for counseling classes, resources for counselors, a resource for local high school counselors, and the counseling main page.

As for instructional leadership, I am one of the more seasoned instructors for the "college success skills" course. With this experience, it is my duty to organize resources for other instructors both online and in hard copies, to share lesson plans, and also provide

encouragement and support. I see the college success skills course as vital to academic success of a student. Each time I teach the class, I know that I increase my self-awareness and grow with my students. I become an example, a role model, and a motivator for the students.

Communication skills are extremely important especially when communicating to students both in class and in counseling appointments. So much miscommunication can take place in counseling sessions. Because of that, listening and clarification is essential. And again, because I maintain the counseling Web sites, I have to make sure ideas and announcements are communicated properly as well.

Collaboration is important especially when it comes to teaching in the classroom and debriefing about counseling appointments. One of my favorite ways of creating a lesson plan is to borrow someone else's lesson plan and make my own additions or changes to it. As an instructor in the department (not everyone teaches), I think it is important to share ideas, issues, and to collaborate on them. Teaching adds a heavy load to one's work on top of our counseling duties. Collaboration is an important form of support for those who teach. Collaboration is also important in personal counseling because there is not a cookie cutter pattern to follow in such a subjective situation. Collaboration allows us to see how we are doing in our sessions and in the classroom.

Organizational advocacy is something that I am interested in, but have not had the opportunity to participate in on a large scale. In terms of preparation for this student learning outcome, my attitude and enthusiasm are pluses for supporting an event, an idea, and the

college. I think that the SDSU Doctoral program will assist me in understanding the college's mission through the course about community college history.

More than anything else, I am my own worst critic. Along with this, comes a high expectation to do well, provide excellent services for students, and demonstrate my own expectation of my department. My high standards demonstrate how I am prepared for the seventh SLO, professionalism. The fact that I choose to enter a doctoral program is evidence of my desire to learn and grow which is a component of professionalism.

Financial and legal forces are areas that are not my forte. Although I consider my preparation to be weak in this area, I do deal well with numbers. My major in management science is evidence of my capabilities in the financial sector. I have strong critical thinking skills, so these skills will help me in analyzing and understanding situations.

Decision sciences should be my forte because my undergraduate major was management science. As similar sounding as it is, this is not the case. My other major prepared me more for decision sciences because I was required to conduct research on a topic within urban studies. Through this undergraduate research, I learned more about assessment and validity.

Overall, my education, my professionalism and my professional training have prepared me to meet the expectations of the program. While I am prepared to take on the task of learning, I am eager to achieve these student learning outcomes. I am excited to see how I grow and how I change in addition to seeing how my college grows and changes with me at the frontline.