Palmer Edholm

When I was in elementary school, I hardly knew what grades were. If I were asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I always respond that I wanted to be a spy. When middle school came around, I didn’t realize how important grades were. I never missed an assignment, but I also didn’t put in the effort required. In those years, I thought being an engineer sounded like a neat job. When high school finally rolled around, my parents awoke in me how important my education was. I started to care a great deal about my grades. However, the letter grade was the only thing I cared about. I didn’t care as much about learning or critical thinking as long as I had an A to show for it. After taking Calculus, I realized engineering was not for me. Through my early years, my educational paradigm and career goals have gone through drastic changes.

The attitude of just achieving the A persisted into my first semester of college. Because of that attitude, I didn’t learn as much as I could have. I realized I was exhausting a lot of time and money if I didn’t take advantage of the resources I was using. In economics terms, my opportunity cost would’ve been lower dropping out and working full-time. Now I no longer look for the easiest class. Now I do my research before registration. Now I hope to find the courses and professors that will offer the greatest analytical rigor. My educational goals have evolved and now are among my top priorities.

Becoming involved in my program, has widened my scope of career possibilities. When I took my first accounting class, I hardly knew anything about jobs in the accounting field. As I became more involved in the program, I quickly saw my fit. My fit came as I began meeting with recruiters and professionals; I discovered the advantages to working in a big firm as opposed to a regional firm or in industry accounting. My career goals now are to establish a career doing IT audit and accounting information systems. Since seeing my fit, I have taken on a double major in MIS and gotten involved in Association of Information Systems to more reasonably realize my goals.

Dear AIM Utah,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your generous gift to me. I have always enjoyed learning; however, the financial aspect of it always brought unneeded stress. Your gift will help me focus on my education and take away some of the stress often associated with it.

My professional goal is to obtain a doctoral degree in accounting. To prepare myself, I have had to take jobs that pay less than what I would have otherwise earned to make myself more attractive to high level programs. The financial assistance you have provided will help me continue to focus on the most important things.

Sincerely,

Palmer