

John Webster, WLC300, Personal Statement, 11/08/2017

Originally when I started my journey through college I was an engineering major in my local community college, San Joaquin Delta College(SJDC). While contemplating which four-year university I would like to attend and the courses I noticed that my top choice at the time required completion of the beginner level of a language program. The main choices I had at SJDC were Spanish and Japanese. I'm very fond of Japanese anime and games and decided I'd be more motivated to learn Japanese over Spanish. After completing the two semesters of the beginner level of Japanese, I decided to go on to the next level and take the intermediate level courses that were offered. During the last class session before finals of the highest level of Japanese offered at SJDC, our professor asked if any of us would be interested in assisting her next semester. I offered to help her and for the next year I helped with classroom activities, giving quizzes and grading homework from beginner to intermediate level classes. Due to a family hardship, however I lost sight of my college goals and dropped out to work. After a couple years of working low end jobs, I decided it was time to go back to school, but I didn't have the desire to become an engineer anymore and when I took the time to really think about what I wanted to do with my life and the things that I had enjoyed most during my time at SJDC, I realized that everything that I recalled was of my time spent in the Japanese classes. I decided to apply to California State University Monterey Bay(CSUMB), remembering posters in the Japanese classroom, and was accepted for the fall 2017 semester.

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I've only been at CSUMB for less than a semester at the time of writing this, but I've learned many things about the Japanese language and culture major. Through the WLC 300 course I've learned of the many different career options available, where previous students of CSUMB in this major have ended up and some of the different paths that lead to these careers. As an example I've learned about the history of Japan through JAPN 302 which gave me a lot of insight on some of the origins of the current culture of Japan. I've also learned that just learning the language of a country isn't enough to comprehend the language, the culture of a country is just as important to understanding its language.

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I want to try a few different things after completing my undergraduate with CSUMB and a graduate program. Because of my interest in anime and games from Japan, I'd like to work for a company that works on translating and localizing media content from Japan for American

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audiences. I would also like to eventually teach Japanese either at the college level, I truly enjoyed the time I spent helping the students at SJDC during my time as a teacher's assistant.