

## **Additional Questions and Answers for your Personal Statement**

- 1) What is your intended major? Discuss how your interest in the field developed and discuss any experience you have had in the field – such as volunteer work, internships and employment, participation in student organizations and activities – and what you have gained from your involvement.

Majoring in Animal Science will bring my lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian much closer. My love for animals goes back to my childhood. This passion was strengthened when I lived away from home during my first year of college in the Philippines. At the time, I had a pet dog, Cheena, whom I dearly loved. She was one of those dogs who would get excited and jump around when you got home and stay in bed with you until you woke up. One weekend when I came home from school, there was no Cheena to greet me. She had died while I was away. I felt powerless. This experience urged me seek a career to enhance the quality and longevity of life for animals.

Working in the field of animal care has been my goal ever since I came to America three years ago. Thus, I sought to find any experience that would help me reach this goal. I volunteered at an animal shelter and at the Animal Medical Center of Southern California. Presently, I work at the Petsmart Clinic where I prepare vaccines for cats and dogs. These experiences have helped me to learn the importance of animals in people's lives and to value the care of animals more than ever.

- 2) Tell us about a talent, experience, contribution, or personal quality you will bring to the University of California.

Having immigrated to the United States a few years ago, I had to adapt to many cultural and social differences as I immersed myself into a different set of values. This process of adaptation has taught me to be flexible and open-minded about other cultural beliefs. My horizons have been broadened by the rich ethnic diversity in America, especially in California. Also, having lived in a different country has helped me value the opportunities available to me. These opportunities motivate me to make something of myself even if it means working assiduously.

Although I have been able to adapt to American life, I have always been taught to never forget our traditional Filipino ways. Having gone to a Catholic school for most of my academic life, I joined the church choir and sought to serve the Lord and be able to give something in return for all the blessings given to me and my family. Being with and staying close to my family is a key feature of the Filipino culture and as one of the first generations in my family to go to school in America, my family's support and encouragement has helped me.

- 3.) Is there anything you would like us to know about you or your academic record that you have had not the opportunity to describe elsewhere in this application?

Although the things I learned in school have helped me become a well-rounded and educated person, my work experiences and my extracurricular activities have helped me acquire practical skills. These skills have aided me in acquiring the social skills that I need to deal with people of different personalities and cultures. Having good social skills require a person to have good judgment of character, patience, understanding and flexibility which has to be obtained in a gradual process. Having worked and dealt with various kinds of people throughout my adult life, I find that I am able to relate to them well, whether they be of my own age level, younger or older. Finding some interests in common with the person I am interacting with has enabled me to carry on a relevant conversation with them with confidence.

Aside from the social skills I acquired through my work, I find that it has also trained me in various technical areas. It is an accepted fact that computer technology is now an essential factor in any employment environment and our everyday life. My various jobs have provided me with opportunities to be trained in different computer programs. While employed as a bank teller, I gained experience in manipulating programs for processing various bank transactions. This is also where I developed my skills in typing faster and using the numeric keyboard (10 keys). These skills are now aiding me with my current work as a staff analyst at the Los Angeles County Office of Education. My familiarity with computers also helps me in my school work. Although some people may see working while being enrolled in school as an obstacle, I see it as an advantage and an avenue for self-improvement which makes me appreciate the things I have in life more because I work diligently for them.

Although school has always been a priority of mine, I did not always have the motivation to succeed. When I went to school in the Philippines, I thought of myself as an average student. This perception changed when I took a study skills class at Long Beach Community College. Applying the study strategies that I learned from this class helped me do well in most of my classes. Armed with new knowledge to succeed in school, I took the initiative to join the Honors Program which has been a truly enriching and challenging experience. It is an experience I am fortunate to have. While my dream of working with animals and making my parents proud has motivated me to finish my schooling, meeting highly motivated students through the Honors Program inspired me even more. Even though things do not always go my way, I am determined to overcome any hurdles.

One area that does concern me is my economic situation. As new immigrants to America, my family and I are still working on gaining economic stability in our new country. My parents are struggling to support my brothers in the Philippines while also providing for me and my sister in the United States. In order to fulfill my dream of earning a degree and becoming a productive citizen, I am left to seek funding for my education through scholarships and government financial aid. I also try to help my parents financially by working in addition to attending school. To be able to participate

in the Educational Opportunity Program at the University of California, Davis would greatly assist me in reaching my career goals. However, as I have placed my education on top of my priority list, I doubt that anything will come between me and my dreams.