

Ever since I was young, I have been exposed to a family involved education. I grew up with the people who worked in the education field. For example, my father is a teacher in the rural area of Thailand. I saw that he really enjoys educating people in the countryside. My mother has been working in universities for 20 years. She is an expert in development education. Also, my grandmother was a great teacher in kindergarten. Adults like to ask children: When you grow up what will you like to do in the future? I always said that I wanted to be a great teacher like my grandmother. She inspired me to become an early childhood teacher. When I followed her to go to her school, I liked the way that she worked and communicated with her students. That was my first impression that I felt like this could be my career. It pushed me to become a teacher and take up a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education.

However, when I was a teenager, I changed my dream job. During my undergraduate studies, I have been exposed to many objects, but it was not related to the education field. I graduated from a bachelor of art degree (B.A.) in Tourism Industry. I wanted to be a guide because at that time tourism industry is remarkably popular in my country. However, when I finished my undergraduate studies. I worked as a tour guide for six months and I decided that being a guide was not my dream. I wanted to work in the education field. As a result, I decided to get certificated in teaching and I got GPA of 3.77. While I studied, I worked in kindergarten as a lead teacher for three years. I loved working with children and their families. I thought that I was on the right track in this career. That is why I decided to continue my masters degree in Early Childhood Education in the U.S.

For me, studying in the U.S. was a challenge because I needed to adapt to Western Culture. I studied in the Academic English program at INTO Mason for two semesters to improve my English proficiencies. I have learned American culture and

the Western education system which is extremely different from my country. In my opinion, the U.S. is a huge country full of opportunities for international students to increase their knowledge and open their world. For example, this country has advanced educational theories and technologies for facilitating information to outlander students. As Consequence, this will assist me vastly in the achievement of academic progress, fulfilling my personal goal to become a professional in the field of education.

The U.S. has plenty of famous universities. The reason why I chose to study at George Mason University (GMU) is because this school has a worthy reputation. It has strong education program because it is ranked 32 in the U.S. Moreover, GMU is a very large public college and it is located in Fairfax country, which is accommodated for international students because its location near Washington DC has plenty of diverse learners. The school is presently offering bachelors, certificates, masters, and doctoral degrees in 18 different education programs. GMU also has a Child Development Center in the Fairfax campus, which is a place where educators can observe and have field experiences. This definitely made me interested to study here.

In this semester, I have learned how to be a good professional in the education field from my major courses which require me to gather data in my experiences. Also, I have understood the involvements in Western Academics from the Graduate Pathway Program by learning American culture and others cultures from my classmates which make me enjoyable in this semesters. This semester was the first step of my graduate life in the U.S. Honestly, this semester was difficult, but I believe this semester helped construct my foundation of knowledge to become stronger and gain many experiences and comprehensions in my major. It definitely makes me

powerful for me next semester.

My plan in the future is to achieve a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and then go back to Thailand. I will work with children in the rural area because this area, children have a shortage of professional educators and those children do not have any chance to study. I hope that I will provide my students with the best quality education and expose my knowledge from my experiences in the U.S. to develop the education system in my country in the long run.

To summarize, attending the Early Childhood Education program at George Mason University will definitely help me accomplish my professional goal and my young dream as a perfect teacher. I am confident that this degree will be valuable to many children in my country in the future.