

## UALR Scholarship Essay 2020 - 2021

**Write an essay of 500 words or more discussing what motivates you to continue pursuing a degree in your major, what your career goals are, and how a scholarship will help you.**

As you probably know, figuring out life can be *really hard*. I love history and literature; I love the feeling of solving a math problem or discovering the science behind how something works. Mostly, I love imagination and the creative process. The question I struggle with is how to combine all of these interests into something meaningful – into a worthwhile purpose. I love hearing the stories of those who inspired, changed, and conquered - how they climbed the ladder, slashed the stereotypes, and made a name for themselves worthy to stand the test of time. The thing about these stories, however, is that with the interest and inspiration they bring also comes a feeling of something like discontent. I am not satisfied sitting on the sidelines reading of others' accomplishments. I want to be the hero, the leader, the teacher. I am finished looking back - I want to look towards the future, towards making history.

When I first started at the university in the fall of 2018, I was a systems engineering major. I realized pretty early on, however, that traditional engineering was not for me. I come from a family of engineers and have a high respect for the profession, but, ironically, I just didn't feel quite at home. It took having the opportunity to explore curriculum from other majors for me to realize that E-commerce was a better companion to my career objectives. As mentioned earlier, I am a person of vast interests and would prefer to learn about too many things rather than not enough. From my first semester in the major (Fall 2019), and through my research, I realized E-commerce has both the creativity and diversity I am looking for. It has programming and computer-related skills training as well as classes in business and marketing. The

programming classes I have been taking have a high level of imagination and problem-solving. With some lines of code, I can create programs that do almost anything. I can solve a real-world calculation, design a web page, or just make a game to play. The applications are endless and therefore so are the opportunities.

Fortunately, my professors and my advisers have provided me with exceptional insight into ways to customize my academic pursuits into viable career options. I am still in the process of figuring out an exact career plan, but even without a concrete outline, I do have an idea of what I might want to do. As you have probably gathered, I have a thing for stories. I love reading them, but I also want to have my own story. On that note, I considered that maybe the purpose of my story was to be the one who *creates* the stories. I am not talking about becoming an author of literature (not that it isn't on my bucket list), but an author of ideas and innovation. I want to go into the marketing field. You are probably wondering why, then, am I in the College of Engineering and Information Technology rather than the College of Business? The answer to that question, simply put, is to be different. Most people go into the marketing field with a marketing degree, but how many E-commerce graduates do they see? Another reason for my choosing something in the EIT field was to be prepared for a career in our technology-oriented world. Almost everything, including marketing, has a technological component. E-commerce is growing to unprecedented levels. It's no longer just high-tech companies that need an online presence; brick and mortar chains such as Walmart not only *have to* participate in E-commerce to survive in today's market, but many of them have also started to *thrive* online. I feel like with an EIT degree and, hopefully, a marketing masters, I can be a bridge between the business and tech industries.

In order to do all of this to *make* money, I realize I also *need* money. My parents are both college graduates and are very supportive of my college education; as much as I love their support as parents, I don't want them to have to drain their savings to support me financially. That is why I have been adamant about paying for my own college. With my plans for a graduate degree as well as an undergraduate, any scholarship, big or small, helps me move one step closer to reaching my goal. It's a great feeling when others are proud of you, but it's an even better feeling to be proud of yourself. That is what a scholarship would help me accomplish.

So that's me - who I am, why I am here, where I want to go. I might be somewhat of a rough draft right now, working out the kinks and figuring out the specifics, but I promise I am a good read. I have the determination to be something one day, and I think that's a pretty solid start to an epic story.