

A note to students:

These are sample essays to provide examples of what a student may include in order to address all parts of each essay question. These are not real student essay responses and were created by the OC Foundation staff team based on a compilation of student responses received in the past. However, the resources and programs referenced in these essays are real degree programs at Olympic College and resources available to students of OC.

Academic and Career Goals Essay

1. Please tell us about your academic and professional goals. 2. What are your plans for achieving them? 3. What has your journey been like so far? 4. What are your next steps? 5. How and why did you choose these goals/this career path? If you haven't yet decided, you may write about the possibilities that currently appeal to you and what you hope to gain from your experience at Olympic College in your journey to discovering your goals.

I'm currently in my final year of the Associates Degree in Nursing Program (ADN) at Olympic College and I will be working towards my Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN) beginning Fall 2026. My long-term goal is to become a nurse in a leadership position, such as a charge nurse, specifically in pediatric medicine. My academic journey has been extremely turbulent, with lots of challenges to overcome. I am a single mother of a beautiful 4-year-old boy. He is my inspiration to keep going through school to give him a better future.

After high school, I couldn't afford college on my own, and as a first-generation college student, I didn't know much about financial aid and didn't have a strong support system to help me with the process. I worked in retail for a couple of years, until I decided to go to school. I was interested in becoming a nurse, as I have always had a passion for helping others, and I've always really enjoyed science classes and learning about the human body. I enrolled at OC and started taking all of my prerequisites for the nursing program. After almost 2 years, I was eligible to apply for the ADN program.

However, my plans changed when I had my son. He was born with a lot of medical issues and needed ongoing medical attention throughout the first two years of his life. I quickly realized I couldn't balance work, school, and his medical care at the same time, and I needed a job with healthcare in order to support his needs. I took two years off from school and got a full-time job at a daycare, which allowed me to have discounted childcare, provided medical insurance, and had a flexible schedule to accommodate my son's doctor's appointments.

Once my son's medical needs stabilized, I decided I wanted to go back to school to finish my nursing degree. This would not only give me a more stable income so that I can support my family, but my passion for nursing was reinvigorated by the amazing healthcare team who supported my son during his time in the NICU and his ongoing medical treatment.

I reapplied for the nursing program and got in! Now, I am less than two quarters away from graduating with my ADN. After graduating this June, I plan on starting my bachelor's program in the Fall. The bachelor's program includes 4 quarters, but during this past summer, I took some classes in advance so I can get ahead and graduate with my BSN by June of 2027.

During the first years of my child's life, I learned so much about how to care for my child as a mother. Now, during the nursing program, I have learned how to better care for my child as a healthcare worker. I learned assessments, vitals, feeding techniques, how to recognize choking, aspiration, and respiratory distress. It has been extremely empowering to have this knowledge and care for my child properly, and I want to empower other parents as well.

Being in the nursing program has only solidified the passion that I have for caring for others. It has made me more confident in caring for my child and how to advocate for his health. There are so many parents out there who are caring for their sick children and are desperate for help, for more information, and for knowing how to give the best care to their child. They need assistance, and they need hope. I want to be that for them.

Nursing not only will give me a stable career and income, but it will also allow me to do what I am passionate about, caring for others. I hope to give back to my community as the need for nurses continues to rise. I hope to help guide parents through the scariest times of their lives, which is not knowing if your child will be okay. I also hope to give my son a better future. Knowledge is empowering and using that knowledge to help others is fulfilling. I can't wait to help others the way that I was helped.

Financial Need Essay

1. Tell us about how you have funded your education thus far (if applicable) and how you plan to fund your education moving forward.
2. What information would you like the scholarship selection committee to know about your financial circumstances?
3. What impact would a scholarship from Olympic College Foundation have on your ability to achieve your educational goals?

I am a first-generation college student working my way through school without any support from my parents. I apply for FAFSA each year and get enough funding to cover my tuition, but there isn't enough funding left over each quarter to cover my costs of living such as housing, transportation, food, and childcare, not to mention the high costs of supplies for the nursing program.

I work as much as I can while in school, but the nursing program is extremely rigorous and our advisors encourage students not to work in order to be able to attend class, clinicals, practicums, and more. I can typically manage 15-20 hours per week of work, but that barely brings in enough to cover my rent.

I have received support from the Resource Center in the past with things like textbooks, access codes, and help with rental assistance when I was in a real bind. I also am on food assistance and utilize the food pantry on campus when I need to. I received one quarter of support from Worker Retraining, which covered my tuition, books, and supplies for my program. This was such a huge help in the first quarter of my program, when expenses were highest, as we had to obtain all of our necessary gear for the program.

Applying for scholarships each year has been a source of hope for me. I received a scholarship last year which was instrumental in me being able to stay in the nursing program. As I move towards my final step in my academic journey with the BSN program, help from the OC Foundation could help me finally achieve my dream of becoming a pediatric nurse. I will not only be able to better provide for my child, but I will also give back to my community by being the support that I needed when my child was in the hospital. I will also bring Bachelor's-level experience to the healthcare field, which is greatly needed in our community, as we are facing a healthcare shortage.

Being a single mom and handling every aspect of life by yourself is extremely isolating and hard, especially when you feel like nothing you do is enough. It does not matter how many nights I don't sleep taking care of my baby, doing assignments, studying for the next test, showing up to clinicals, working as many hours as I can, I still cannot afford all my bills each month. No matter how hard I try, I cannot meet the financial expectations of tuition, books, clinical materials, access codes, lab coats, scrubs, and the endless expense that it is going to school. All while still being a mother, who still has to figure out rent, food, diapers, medicine, doctor's appointments, surgery, health insurance, clothes, and bills that are never ending.

Juggling all of these responsibilities has been extremely arduous. Sometimes I worry I will have to withdraw from the program because I don't have enough money to cover all of the expenses. It would gut me if I couldn't finish my degree after all of the hard work I've put in.

My long-term goal is to be in a leadership position, which would allow me to participate in active reform of the workplace and medical standards. I can better the medical environment and quality of care, by enforcing updated evidence-based practices, re-certifying professionals, co-working with people in position of power to reform pediatric care standard, and give children a better chance to survive. However, I cannot do this without financial help to finish my degree. Providing me with a scholarship would be more than just helping me finish my education, it would be an investment in your community. Thank you for your consideration of my scholarship application.

Community Engagement Essay

1. Please tell us about your involvement within your community. 2. What has your community given to you? 3. How do you like to give back to your community? 4. How has this involvement impacted you? Your community can include your family, friends, school, neighborhood, church, service organizations, clubs, businesses, nonprofits, government organizations, and more. Your involvement can include work experience, volunteer experience, participation in community activities, etc.

As a single mother, working while going to school full-time student, you can imagine I do not have spare time. However, my community has given me so much. I am extremely lucky that I get to have my son enrolled in daycare where I work. That allows me to connect with other mothers and families, and we get to plan fun events for the kids in our community. We have organized trick or treating parties, outdoor days in the summer, easter egg hunting, fun crafting projects, and many more events. I get to connect with the community and help them take care of their children when they are in need. We have many parents who contribute with food and snacks for the events, parents who donate supplies for children to craft, and parents who donate their time to help with summer activities, and more.

Being a single mom with a busy schedule can be very isolating. Trying to do it all by yourself can be very isolating, even when you do not mean to isolate yourself. Handling the responsibilities life throws at you makes you not have a choice. What keeps me going is community, and the chance for a better future. The support of others has kept me going. I have a community of parents I can call on when I need help with watching my son, and I do the same for their kids when they need help.

One thing that has been fun has been my ability to share what I've learned in the nursing program to help other parents identify when their kids are not feeling well and proper ways to avoid the spread of illness to other kids. This has saved many parents from the

shared flu that kiddos constantly have. Those are little ways in which we all support each other within the community create. Community is connection, and when kids are involved, we need people to rely on and connect with more than ever. It also teaches our children from a young age that we need to be there for each other and help with what we can. We are building generations that prioritize generosity, empathy, and fairness, which is the world I want my son to live in.