
MANUEL ALBERTO AYBAR

Statement of Purpose

I'm a disabled, Dominican/Nicaraguan, first generation, under represented minority applicant who also happens to be fifty years old. I want you to know this right off the top, because although those factors don't define me, they enrich my life in ways that enhances my study and understanding of public administration and public service; and synecdochally, add context to why earning my MPA, followed by my PhD, has gripped me so much that I want to spend the next seven aggregate years studying this field and becoming a member of this community. With this at front, I've been feeling a lot of concern and anxiety about this statement of purpose - how can I present to you in a thousand words or less the entirety of my being as I voluntarily submit to academic scrutiny? I'm a complex applicant that's had a uneven road in finishing a bachelor's degree; I've had to work, provide for my family, maintain personal and professional checks and balances, and I've learned to be successful in settings that never envisioned having a person like me engaged as part of the process and outcome. To me, this is the most important part of my application packet because I want you to know me and understand why I have pivoted mid-career towards the study, teaching, promoting and advancement of responsible public service. There's just too much to present, so to this end, here are the five things I'd like you to keep as you discern my candidacy.

Firstly, the interface of public administration and philosophy is exciting, full of life, full of ideas and full of practical applications. Every time I interface with these concepts I feel deeply enlightened, engaged and learned in ways that I can't fully put in words. The more I read and think about the interface of philosophy and public administration, the better I am able to understand the world and the people around me. Deep cultural research and study helps and guide me towards becoming a more fulfilled and present human being. I want to earn my MPA with you because I want to realize my full human potential, and through that realization, help other people prepare for the real world.

Secondly, I have a deep commitment to IDEAS: Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access and Sovereignty and I want to be part of a group of academics that demonstrate and exemplify those concepts in learning communities. I'd like to engage in research which links how language impacts public administration through a Critical Theory lens in hopes of contributing towards the creation of a more diversified academic landscape. Other areas of research that speak to me are the study of County health and human services for unhoused individuals and families, specifically in Washington's rural counties and how ethics impacts the practice of public administration. I'd also like to study and research 2017's Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act and how those services are implemented in different Workforce Development Areas throughout Washington state.

Thirdly, I'm a late academic bloomer¹. It just is what it is - but my work record provides mitigation towards risks associated with my candidacy. Over the last year as I have prepared for this application cycle I've forgiven myself and accepted that I simply could not maintain academic consistency because of work and disability. Many people are able to work and pursue school concurrently; I was unable to do that. It's important for me to let you know the steps I have taken to ensure I maintain the rigor required to complete an MPA: aside from pivoting to full-time study, I've also focused on aligning past academic mistakes. During this year I have been dually matriculated at both The Evergreen State College, where I will graduate with my BA in June, and at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), which was the last academic institution I attended in 2007. I'm dually matriculated because Evergreen, as a non-traditional institution, has abolished grades and GPA as a matter of execution and practice, and my previous GPA from 2007 was below a 2.0. It was important for me to show to this admissions committee my dedication towards being accepted to a graduate program and completing my degree. I intend to complete Winter & Spring 2023 quarters at Evergreen and graduate as planned in June 2023, and concurrently complete the Spring 2023 quarter credits at CSUSB which will raise my GPA towards an acceptable level. I humbly point this committee to my CV which amply demonstrates my workplace strengths, collaborative abilities and the fact that I actually get things done.

Fourthly, I have a deep passion for teaching, and that passion has manifested itself throughout my career. As a government and non-profit executive, I've engaged with and managed workforce education and training programs; in the arts I have taught music and led ensembles at community college levels and I've been the founding artistic and general director of a school of the arts. Sharing knowledge, information and traditions is ingrained to my being and I'm excited to have this facet shaped and guided by the faculty of this department. I hope to bring and exhibit intelligence, flexibility and dedication to teaching and graduate assignments. My hope is to return to Evergreen as faculty someday.

Lastly, my personal expectations are to continue to learn and ask questions, strengthen the areas where I can improve, participate and be engaged with all my faculty and class mates, become a fine teacher and graduate assistant (if possible), contribute to the growth of the department and be as supportive and present an Evergreen community member as I can. I plan to learn, help, be engaged and be a responsible steward of the faith and trust placed in me. I want to become a sociologist so I can contribute to the sociological tradition. I want to do what you do - share ideas, research, be part of a learning community, be a positive colleague - because those that can, do - and those that teach, do better - and I always strive to do better. Thank you.

¹ Please consider University of Mobile (Jan - Aug 2000) and Ave Maria University (Aug 2000 - May 2002) as the same experience - University of Mobile sold the campus to Ave Maria in the Fall of 1999, the transition did not occur until the following August.