

August 29, 2023

Financial Aid Appeal.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jeromy Alexander and I consider myself a lifelong student. Mostly, this is because I have yet to achieve any degree that might make me feel as if I've learned enough.

From High School, my goal was to go straight into college. Unfortunately, there were issues in my childhood home and I became an emancipated minor in 1995, and in my struggles to support myself from that point forward, I was not able to graduate with my high school class in 1996. I did test for and earn my GED in 1997.

In 1999 I took a Small Business Series at Jackson Community College and started my business, a now LLC that continues today.

My attempt at an Associates Degree began in 2001. At this time, I had a two year old son and I knew a college education would assist me in supporting him. My plan was to fit in as many classes as I could in between work. I had a great first semester, yet then work got busy- very busy.

Over the next decade, I was married, had another child, and became a divorced single parent. Again, I knew an education would improve my situation, and I enrolled again in Fall of 2010.

Although I was more successful in my enrollment in 2013 (passing 3 of 4 classes not dropped,) 2010 began a bad trend of trying to guess how much work I would have over the coming months of the term, signing up for what I thought I could handle, and drop what I couldn't.

Perhaps not the best plan, yet as it plan it would have worked had I followed it. Unfortunately, both in 2010 and in 2013 more work came up than expected, and due to my first priority- supporting my children- I had to take the immediate gratification of a paycheck versus the sacrifices that would have been required for me to dedicate the time to my degree.

Following in Fall of 2013 and Fall of 2021, I also signed up, however due to my past performance issues, I was ineligible for grants and was unable to afford even the books.

Since my last attempt, some things have changed. In January of 2022 I was critically injured and have been in recovery since. I have been unable to work and am slowly physically and mentally preparing myself to find a new workplace.

To that end, and as that my children are now grown and gone (my youngest, a sophomore at MSU,) and that I no longer have the distractions of work, I aim to devote myself fully to my own college education. I want to walk with a cap and gown at some point in my life.

I have saved the amount needed to pay for my books, however I require Federal Financial Aid in order to have a functioning plan for my budget over the next year.

Please grant my appeal.

Jeromy Alexander
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