

### **To Whom it may concern**

“One step at a time” is my favorite phrase to repeat to myself whenever I feel like I needed it. I have learned a lot of life lessons within these short five years of my life. I came from Ethiopia in the summer of 2015, it was one of the most exciting times of my life. I saw the sun shining as late as 9 P.M (this is something I still can’t get over), I get to experience some of the different personalities and ranges of different people, most of all I get to reunite with my mom and my sister after being apart for 7 years. I am so grateful for these experiences I had because they led me to who I am today. I have been in college most of the time since I moved here, through those times I have gone through stages within each of the semesters, which shows in my grade. In the near future, I am going to apply to Physician Assistant (PA) school then plan to work with that profession.

My sister first introduced me to this profession when I was a sophomore at Northern Virginia Community College; I had already taken some biology classes because I still wanted to be in health care. Quickly I fell in love with Physician Assistant profession. Unfortunately it did take me time to adjust my credits to finish my undergraduate degree, which I will soon finish in Fall 2022, but the phrase on the above paragraph helps me put my head up and keep going.

Covid-19 has changed most of our lives permanently, for me during the transition from in person to online showed me certain weaknesses I may have. I realised that I had given most of my energy to my work rather than my school and that had impacted my grades negatively. I used to work two full time jobs along side with attending school full time, without realising it I had neglected school. When the pandemic hit one of my work had closed down which helped me refocus back to school. I needed that time, it helped me understand that I work to sustain my school and not the other way around. Now these past two semesters, you can see from my grade that it had increased amazingly and it is going to keep going up from here.

When I get accepted to PA school I plan to only focus on school and finish within the two years given. Once I am done with my classes I plan to serve both here and also back in Ethiopia, and in the long term I plan to go back to my biology roots and focus on research.

All in all I have overcome the cultural changes, my doubts and feelings of being left out by my peers (as they have already graduated and continued in their respective professions), work and school balance with in these years. Eventhough it was long and rigorous I am very grateful for the lessons I have learned and the steps I have taken one at a time. If given the opportunity I know I will do great in PA school and also be one of the hard working PAs out there.