

To Whom It Concerns,

My name is Dana Green and I've been attending school since I was 19 on and off. I will finally have a bachelors degree in psychology with a minor in creative writing this June 2023.

This experience has afforded me a unique perspective that I felt would be helpful to other students with similar barriers.

1. I am a first generation college recipient-my parents obtained certificates from community colleges. My mom is still a medical transcriptionist with the Pima County Police Department in AZ. My Dad, a graphic artist and interior designer, asked me why I wanted to attend so bad when he thought that college was only worth it if you had a job lined up to pay for it. In our family, past a certain age, being a good worker was more important than education. But I was always a better student than a worker. I didn't understand working for pay that was not enough to cover all the bills let alone some enjoyment.
2. My first attempt at college was Seattle central community college, but due to confusion of financial aid and the stress of being a 19 year old I opted instead for technical college and became a massage therapist. That schooling was paid for by WA state's running start program where high school students could attend college courses simultaneously. I attended a now defunct community college due to missing a year of school when my parents divorced and I developed autoimmune graves disease.
3. All through school I've struggled with graves, now post thyroidectomy and with mental illness-a personality disorder and major depression that made attendance difficult in work and school, but I could never get social security disability even with a lawyer. They said I could still work in a factory assembling items. But I had bigger dreams for myself.
4. I got into OHSU BSN program after completing years of prerequisites, even with a young family at home.
5. Childcare costs averaged \$565 a month with a family elder. That's an affordable bill compared to some.
6. Due to OHSU being a satellite program, SOU and OHSU disbursed full time aid to me and SOU had to ask for it back. This happened to several students in the confusion of being admitted to both schools. The problem with this was that my aid was disbursed to a closed bank account that was over drafted and the bank cut me a check for the remainder which I then had to keep to afford the lost work time during covid in order to keep the bills covered. The school threatened me with not being able to register unless I returned the money. And I couldn't pay them back if I couldn't register.
7. During my nursing prerequisites, my sister developed stage four colon cancer, which is on the rise in young people and is passing away as I speak.
8. In RN school the pandemic hit. I was discriminated against after divulging my protected disability with NAMI, where I volunteer as an in our own voice presenter.
9. Shortly thereafter, an instructor named Annemarie Day started lying about my performance to bully me for reporting her dishonesty. She targeted several other students who ended up having to take leaves.
10. I opted not to take a leave of absence. I worked too hard to get there. I took the complaints all the way up the chain of command. Despite all my evidence, I kept being told there was none.
11. My case was investigated by the office of civil rights in Seattle. It was determined that I couldn't win against OHSU and even if I could, where would I get job as a nurse here after that. I was convinced to withdraw by a Karen Reifenstein in lieu of a recommendation for dismissal instead

- of going through their process of appeals. It was too easy for them to say, well, she's just too mentally ill to be a nurse instead of taking responsibility for their serious administrative issues.
12. My point of liaison to assist with my disability was the school dean, who joined in bullying me via email and academic alerts based on fabrications. Some of the girls in my class that disliked me, joined in and started reporting me for "inappropriate" aka honest texts and emails I was sending under the immense stress I was experiencing.
 13. Everyone in my class saw what was happening but were afraid to speak up. Only some privately supported me and were kind.
 14. All through this process, only my TRIO program advisor and the office of the dean of students counseling were sources of support. They attended a meeting with the aforementioned instructor and the dean, but OHSU used that in the investigation to say that everyone was worried about my mental health, instead of what it actually was-a soon to be retired counselor being one of the only administrators to support me in a time of stress. Another teacher who was a source of support retired and said she was tired of seeing this happen to students. She said my case was the worst case of discrimination she saw in her 8 years there and no one from the office of civil rights ever contacted her.
 15. After withdrawal, I attended a Worksource program where I became licensed as a CNA and went to work in a nursing home in the pandemic where we all contracted COVID-19. At this same time my husband stopped working due to his own medical problems temporarily and it was the most stressful time for our marriage.
 16. After a short time as a CNA, I got into RCC's practical nursing program where I passed and became licensed, returning to the same nursing home to work as a nurse.
 17. Due to my work schedule I can't attend classes regularly. There's less online options at SOU than at some WA schools.
 18. My first check allowed me to spend the last Christmas with my sister and our family together.

It is my hope that your committee can address the barriers I mentioned here that only students in a small town face. It is no secret that OHSU Ashland has a reputation for targeting students at least among the people my husband and I have told about this. Maybe by sharing this today you can help students in places where people with the most money have power and influence to alter the course of people's lives. I fell through the cracks. All of the safeguards designed to prevent this at OHSU failed. Perhaps by sharing this, there can be changes made for future students.

Thank you.