

Vernese Durolin

Personal statement

People sometimes find themselves at a loss for words when asked questions like "How did you get here?" or "Why are you here attending the University of Central Florida?" After all, why am I here? This peculiar question can be answered in a plethora of ways. Answers to this question include things like "I'm here to make my parents proud" or "I'm here to further my education". In what way then do I respond to this query? It's easy; all I have to do is respond with my identity. Having finished at the top of my class with a 4.2 GPA, my name is Vernese Durolin. Being the best in my class when I graduated may not seem like much, but for me, it was simply the start of far bigger things to come. I am the oldest of three children. As the eldest, I assume the position of mentor to my younger siblings, assisting in molding their morals and conduct. I therefore occasionally feel under pressure to act morally because a poor decision affects not just me but also the people who look up to me. My mother, who attempted to support us by working two jobs, will never hear me lament my way of life. I made an effort to look on the bright side of things, but my mom was exhausted—she just wouldn't let you know, it was something she became good at hiding. Nevertheless, I've engaged in a significant number of community service projects. One of my favorite volunteer experiences was spending Christmas Eve at the nursing home with the elderly, along with other members of my church which was an incredible experience. However, things don't end here. I joined Upward Bound and later rose to the position of ambassador. As of right now, I belong to Prime Stem. I made the Dean's List in 2021, 2023, and 2024, and I received recognition for my diligence.

Nevertheless, it is my commitment to success in life that has brought me to this point at UCF. Dedication is a trait I use to portray myself simply because without dedication I have no talent, without dedication I can not achieve my greatest goals, and without dedication I have no real potential. But what precisely is dedication? And why do I feel this way about it? Dedication enables us to persevere when things become difficult and push through them. It provides us with the willpower to endure and stick with the plan even when things get difficult. It's the process of putting forth constant, unrelenting effort into a certain task or activity. For people to succeed in their pursuits, reach their objectives, and get beyond challenges, dedication is a crucial component of life. I am asked if I can glimpse my true self without this label, and the answer is no. As of right now I am a Senior at the University of Central Florida with only one more semester left until I graduate. Four arduous and exhausting years passed, but what kept me going? How did I find the strength to persevere on this life path that I question every day after losing my grandmother in 2022, which caused me to fail all of my studies that semester? At 12:37 PM on December 13, 2021, my grandmother departed from this life. But her funeral was moved to January 8, 2022, two days before the new semester began, due to the impending holidays of Christmas and New Year's. Up until the day we actually buried her, everything seemed dreamlike. It's been a different life for me, one where I have to figure out how to deal with losing the person who helped my mother shape me into the woman I am today and find a reason to get out of bed every morning. The Spring 2022 semester commenced two days following her burial. I started to believe that this semester would not be kind to me this time around without having had a chance to really catch my breath or even properly understand what was going on

around me. I failed four classes at the conclusion of the semester, which was a first for me in any kind of failure. The breaking point has been reached by an honor student who has set extremely high standards for herself. I told myself that there was no way I could recover from this, thinking that no medical school would accept you now. I mentioned before that I feel under pressure to act in a certain way because I provide a good example for my siblings. Can you fathom the feelings this gave me? The objective I set for myself was to turn this failure into inspiration. Making my grandmother proud was all I could ever think about, since she was my entire source of inspiration and concern. Why am I still here? These are questions that run throughout my head constantly, and the simplest explanation for my continued presence here is because of my dedication and commitment to succeed and bring pride to both my living and deceased loved ones. So again you may ask why? Why this trait? because without this label I leave behind no legacy. Without a legacy I am no longer unique, and I can longer be the narrative of MY story. Without this label I am unable to influence the lives that follow behind me. The word "failure" has never been a part of my vocabulary. I have faced difficult obstacles that tried to bring down my success, but all in all, I still come out on top.

I anticipate going into the medical field upon graduation. My choice for selecting a career in the medical field is truly based on my natural flair towards science and human anatomy. What has brought me this far and why I need to achieve is also greatly influenced by the sacrifices made by my parents. However, I still have a long journey ahead of me. I hope to master skills such as my critical thinking skills, my reading comprehension skills, and many more. I also hope to accomplish minor things such as opening up more to others, and becoming more comfortable in my own skin.

