

EDMONDS COLLEGE TESTIMONIAL

Ching Pyng (Andrew) Hsu, from Taiwan

Graduated Edmonds College in Winter 2017

Majored in Computer Science

Transferred to the University of Washington



How did you learn about Edmonds? What made you decide to attend?

I first learned about Edmonds College through an agency in Taiwan. During our meeting, she recommended several options in the greater Seattle area like Shoreline and North Seattle. However, my sister at the time was already studying at Edmonds College and so it made sense for me to also attend the same school.

What was your impression of the campus? Location? People?

I was an exchange student for a time in Texas and Michigan so I already had an introduction to American culture and living. I was pleasantly surprised by Washington state as I feel the people are a bit nicer. It is also more diverse! The weather too is not too hot or too cold. I feel like students get influenced by the media about what American colleges are like. We think that it's this daunting experience of lecture halls and distant relationships between professor and student. However, it's not like that at Edmonds College. There is a sense of community and relationship amongst the students and teachers.

How did you like your academic experience? Teachers? Classes?

My teachers made me feel comfortable learning as many of them offer to help. Their helpful attitude makes the classroom less intimidating especially for students who this is their first introduction to American college life. My teachers were patient and understanding and accommodating to other learning styles.

Why did you choose your major? Is this major something other students from your home country would be interested in and please explain why?

There is a shortage of nurses worldwide. In my home country, nurses tend to be viewed as the lowest in the medical world hierarchy. However, I still feel that nurses are the best profession if you want to help make a difference. They are more than just the "errand people" that society views them. Growing up, I was told that I would not do well in the science field. It was too hard, I wouldn't get it, etc. But once I started taking Biology, Microbiology, Human Anatomy classes I found that I really enjoyed learning about these subjects.

Any favorite memories of Edmonds? How were you involved on campus? Did you have a job? Join a club? Receive a scholarship?

My experience studying at Edmonds was peaceful and the environment is very much a safe place for me. I never felt alienated living here as the community is quite diverse and people are nice. Besides classes, I worked for one quarter in the Black Box Theatre. That was a really good experience for me as I also have interest in theater and music. The arts department at Edmonds is full of great teachers.

What are your plans after graduation? Transfer? OPT?

I've been accepted to U Mass Boston for their BSN program starting this Fall 2023.

How did you choose your university? How did Edmonds help you prepare for transfer?

I researched a lot of schools. It was tricky for me because I was looking for a BSN program which a lot of schools do not have. However, I had a lot of help and support from my advisor Elizabeth Lyon. She listened to me and is always so patient and helpful. She had the seriousness that you would want from a good advisor but had humor and positivity that made her the best advisor. I almost felt like I lived in her office as I was always coming by during drop-in hours. She wrote my recommendation letters to U Mass Boston and I am eternally grateful for her.

What is your advice to international students preparing to transfer?

There is no "bad school". Everyone thinks they want to attend the big name schools like University of Washington or UCLA. I don't think you need to limit yourself like that. If you are choosing schools based on their name and not your program or your degree, you are not setting yourself up for success. Don't be afraid to search for different colleges, and don't be afraid to be rejected, the worst they can do is say "no." There are a lot of hidden gems with the programs you are looking for.

What would you tell other students about Edmonds? How would you promote Edmonds College to students from your home country?

"The day the flesh shapes." Our experiences and environment makes us who we are, and that we make our experience and our environment in return. Edmonds College is a great environment for learning experiences which makes us become better students, and in turn we are shaped to add better things to our campus and to the broader community to better service the students yet to come. Don't be scared of taking the first step of leaving your comfort zone, because when the first step is taken, the second step and the rest of the journey falls into places.