

Bo Zhao - Tianjin, China

How did you hear about Edmonds Community College?

My family friend helped me enroll at Edmonds Community College before I came here. At the time, I arrived late for Fall 1999 quarter, and Edmonds was the only one that accepted my application. Edmonds provided me with the most flexibility.



Did you take ESL classes? Did you like it?

I took ESL for 2 quarters. I was placed in level 3. I think ESL was a great program not only for the purpose of learning English, but it provided me with enough time to get to know the people and get used to life in America. Now when I think about my ESL experience at Edmonds, I think it fully prepared me to be ready for college classes. Even if I had English sufficiency at the time, I would not have been ready to take college level courses. Therefore, ESL was a great transition for me. And, I got to meet people from all over the world and become really good friends.

How did EdCC help you in your studies?

I have always thought to myself: my Edmonds experience was invaluable. I can't imagine where I would be if I had not come to Edmonds. At the end of every quarter, I found new improvement. It was very satisfying. I never thought I'd be able to attend an Ivy League School. But, Edmonds helped me make my way.

Would you have preferred to go to a four-year university for your first two years of study?

If I had not attended Edmonds and had directly gone to a 4-year university, I probably would think attending a four-year university from the very beginning was the preferred way. However, my Edmonds experience was the best transition I could ever have as a new-comer to the country. Therefore, now when my friends who have a similar situation as I did (insufficient English, not enough records to apply for a good 4-year

university directly) ask for my suggestion, I always tell them to attend a community college like Edmonds to become truly prepared for the future.

What do you especially like about EdCC?

Would you recommend EdCC to other international students from your country?
What I miss the most about Edmonds is the people I met and became friends with. And, it's not only me who thought so, my other friends who have transferred have also expressed the same feeling. Yes, I would recommend EdCC to others who plan to come to America to study.

How was your transfer to Cornell University after EdCC?

My own feeling at the beginning was that in terms of studying and course load, it was not much different from Edmonds. Of course, it's totally my own opinion. Studying at Cornell is certainly challenging. I, as did other transfers, had concerns about whether we'd be able to do well in a four year university after transfer, but Edmonds had certainly fully prepared me.