

Testimonial of Meryl Gourmand- FRANCE

Why did you choose Edmonds Community College? I chose Edmonds CC because I had a great impression when I visited the international student office (ISS). I met a French girl that answered all of my questions, based on her experience. It made me feel confident about my choice. As a result, I applied to Edmonds CC and began attending classes in the Fall of 2002.



Did you take ESL classes? I took only ESL classes my first quarter. I really enjoyed ESL classes. It was a great way to get used to an American college and to make friends from all over the world. Furthermore, teachers are very understanding and supportive. It is a great experience where you can learn English without feeling pressure of any kind!

What was your major? Did you like college classes? When I came to Edmonds Community College for the first time, I was supposed to stay for one year to learn English. However, after my experience with other international students and the American college system, I decided to stay at Edmonds CC for two years to do an AA transfer degree and finish my education in an American university. My major is International Relations. The cultural diversity classes that I took at Edmonds Community College influenced my decision to choose this major.

How did Edmonds CC help you in your studies? I have grown a lot since attending Edmonds Community College. Meeting students from all over the world in ESL classes as well as in college classes made me become more open-minded. I learned about other cultures and I discovered that cultural diversity was one of my passions. That is why I chose to specialize in international relations. The diversity of classes that I took at Edmonds CC and the concern and support of my advisors and teachers helped me to become confident in my educational choices.

Would you have preferred to go to a four-year university for your first two years of study? I am glad I went to a two-year college instead of a four year university. Due to the size of community college classes (usually smaller than an university), it is easier to make friends and get used to the American educational system. As an international student, you may feel lost and overwhelmed at the beginning of your studies. Edmonds CC is a great college to meet others like you and find support from staff members. I think that Edmonds CC is perfect for new international students because it is a warm place to begin studies.

When are you transferring to Hawaii Pacific University? I am transferring to Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) for Fall 2004. I heard about it at a college fair that takes place several times a year at Edmonds CC. I choose this university because it fits my major well and I got a scholarship to study there. I got a 50 % scholarship due to my membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society of Edmonds CC, which offers scholarships for several universities in the United States. To be a member of the club, you just need a GPA of 3.5 or more.

What are your future plans? My future plans are to finish my Bachelor degree at HPU in International Relations. Then, I would like to do a Masters degree in Spain in order to become trilingual. My long term goal is to work for the United Nations. I think Edmonds CC was a great start for my studies. It helped me to discover one of my passions and to decide which field I wanted to work in.