MAPPING MY UW EXPERIENCE

WHY ARE YOU AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON?
A number of factors influenced my decision to come to UW, but I am here because I intend to earn a business degree from a top business school, gain a number of valuable skills, and connect to a rich network of business professionals. I chose UW over other schools because the value and world renown of the school was virtually unmatched. It is here that I can most easily envision learning and living, and that is ultimately why I am at the University of Washington.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN OR LEARN FROM BEING HERE?
I hope to learn a number of academic and social lessons that will prepare me for life after college and the workforce. Some specific gains could be a business degree and an applied math minor, or a solid life-long set of friends. I also hope to gain marketable skills that will set me apart in the job market.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE A FULLY ENGAGED MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY?
Being a fully engaged member of the university community to me entails being active in a number of RSOs, using resources provided by the university, and in general maintaining a high degree of interaction with various groups on campus. Personally, I would consider myself a fully engaged member of the community only if I join at least one more club, and make more of an effort to connect with my professors and TAs.

WHAT DO YOU NEED OR WANT YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM TO LOOK LIKE AT THE UW?
My ideal support system at UW would consist of both friends and professional advisors who can provide an unbiased opinion on matters I am struggling with. I do not usually need a support system, as I rely on myself most times, but having some people available to consult and bounce ideas off of would be an amazing resource and would greatly support me in a number of ways.

WHAT DOES BEING “SUCCESSFUL” AT THE UW MEAN TO YOU?
Success at UW is multifaceted, and mostly revolves around keeping a good balance between academic and social matters. I genuinely believe that in order to be successful, you cannot be fully focused on just one or another, you must be able to balance commitments. This best prepares a student for life after school.
What is one academic goal for your first year? What is the action you will take to achieve that goal?

In my first year at UW, an academic goal of mine is to maintain at least a 3.8 GPA regardless of the classes I take. In order to achieve this goal, I have come up with a couple actions that will likely help me find success. First, I will take classes I have a genuine interest in, as I believe that this will motivate me to work harder in the class. Having a personal interest usually results in me paying more attention and being an active participant in class. By taking this into consideration when choosing classes, I think I will be much more likely to achieve my goal. Another action I will take to help me achieve my goal would be taking advantage of resources provided to me by UW, such as tutoring services and office hours. After the first couple weeks of my first quarter at UW, I have realized the value of these, especially when compared to my usual methods of Google or other sources when I am confused about a concept or am trying to study for a test. Instead of turning to sketchy sources, I think I will best be able to achieve my goal by going to office hours and asking questions, or going to tutoring sessions provided by the university.

What is one personal goal for your first year? What is the action you will take to achieve that goal?

A personal goal for my first year is to maintain a better work-life sleep balance than I did in the past. During high school, I often neglected my social and sleep needs even in situations where it was, honestly, not necessary. Unfortunately, some of my tendencies have already followed me to college, as I tend to not sleep nearly enough. During my time at UW, I want to be able to better manage my time in order to be able to fully satisfy my social obligations, academic commitments, and get a decent amount of sleep on top of that. In order to do that, I will likely begin to keep a calendar/planner and try to implement a number of time-management practices. By writing down all my obligations (school assignments, sorority events, etc.) I feel I will be much better organized and suited to maintain the balance I strive for. By being able to easily visualize what I have to do each day, I will be able to allocate time for each and maximize my productivity while leaving time to sleep and/or relax.

How will your involvements support your goals for your time at the UW?

My involvements will ideally help me fulfill my academic and social goals by connecting me to a network of support and resources, as well as allowing me to find people who share my values and can help me in my pursuit of balance. By joining academic groups at UW, I feel I will find support for my scholarly pursuits, and be connected to people who are in similar situations as I am. These involvements will alert me to many new opportunities (internships, jobs, etc.). This will be very effective in keeping me focused on my academic and professional goals and place me in an environment where I can thrive. Additionally, some of my extracurricular involvements, like my sorority, will make it much easier for me to not get caught up in school. With many opportunities for social events as well as countless friends with similar values, my sorority is a great outlet to rely on for balance. Already I can see the benefits, as it has connected me to some very close friends and even an internship. Ultimately, this direct connection to people and resources will help me develop a solid support system that will help me reach my goals.