

**WHAT IS YOUR INTENDED MAJOR? DISCUSS HOW YOUR INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT DEVELOPED AND DESCRIBE ANY EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE HAD IN THE FIELD – SUCH AS VOLUNTEER WORK, INTERNSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT, PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES – AND WHAT YOU HAVE GAINED FROM YOUR INVOLVEMENT.**

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California is a state rich with cultural and racial diversity, political and cultural dynamism, and an epicenter of entertainment and art. Yet, it is also a landscape divided by segregation and political tension. Perhaps more than any other state in the country, California's multiculturalism is a telling microcosm of the American society at large, and my academic and work experiences thus far have given rise to a strong interest in learning about the most significant dimension of American society. Therefore, it is my objective to major in Sociology at the University of California. Sociology not only encompasses my growing interest in the analysis of societal diversity and cultural movements, but also my aspiration to be a vocal leader.

As a woman, I was always somewhat aware of the common stereotypes and imposed limitations associated with member of my gender. I routinely read and heard about "glass ceilings," "sexism and chauvinism," and "traditional women roles" as a child and teenager, but never fully appreciated their true meaning. As I evolved as a student, I developed a sharper understanding of patriarchy, particularly when I took my first Sociology course at Santa Monica College. The course provided me with the intellectual tools to fully understand the manifold societal, cultural and even political obstacles women not only face in American society, but the world at large. In addition, I also developed a comprehensive understanding of the roles race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status play in an individual's experience. Furthermore, the Sociology and Public Speaking courses I enrolled in presented me with a platform to develop my thoughts on these issues, and also formulate speeches that addressed matters like gender empowerment and the importance of racial diversity. Shaping my perspective on these matters, and delivering them before a ready audience of students, was deeply empowering. As a result, I finally felt that I found my academic community and forum where I wanted to continue my education – and it was within the exciting realm of Sociology.

President-elect Barack Obama captured the minds of Americans of every racial and ethnic stripe, but Hillary Clinton inspired American women to dream beyond society's rigid gender limitations. Both of their examples affirmed my love for interacting with people of all

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walks, particularly in new and challenging environments. I decided to travel beyond my comfort zone and intern for “Too Faced Cosmetics,” a prominent cosmetics company that forced me to interact with everyone from celebrities to common Americans. I loved interacting with people, and found that I deeply enjoyed hearing about the range of personal stories my customers told. This routine interaction strengthened my public speaking abilities, but also humanized stories of achievement, personal struggle and transcendence, racial or gender discrimination, and tragedy.

The job, although superficially linked to cosmetics and makeup, was more about the breadth of uniquely American stories I heard, which significantly expanded my knowledge of the United States, and my fellow citizens. Therefore, I was building a foundation to major in Sociology both in the classroom and in my work environment, which inspired me to fully commit myself to the field. The University of California will allow me to make this aspiration a possibility, and I am excited about the personal challenge that lies before me as a future Sociology major.