

University of Washington
Intended Department: Economics

Statement of Purpose
Applicant: Lawrence Angel **ENW**

From 1996 to 2000, I worked at Amgen, Inc. in Thousand Oaks, California where I eventually moved up to managing projects and supervising staff. In an atmosphere of tight deadlines, I thoroughly developed my time management skills and my ability to multi-task projects. This experience significantly affected my approach to education, increasing my GPA from 2.66 at the undergraduate level to 3.54 at the graduate level.

in September 2000, I enrolled as a full-time student at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). My Graduate Program in Economics comprised of a core curriculum in advanced macroeconomics, advanced microeconomics, and econometrics. From the core curriculum, I began to focus on financial/international economics enrolling in classes such as international monetary economics, international currency crisis, and international finance.

While attending CSULA, I worked as a Graduate Assistant under the supervision of Dr. Edward Hsieh, the Chair of Economics, and Professor Bill White, a Professor in Marketing. I assisted Dr. Hsieh with various projects such as grading papers and tutoring students. The subjects in question ranged from statistics to macroeconomics. I also served as the student representative on the grievance committee where I evaluated student complaints against faculty. In addition, I'm especially proud of my work with the Title V Program at CSULA, which provides support to Mexican-American transfer students. Under the supervision of Professor White, I assisted students with various techniques to improve their academic status including critical thinking, time management, and study habits. Furthermore, I advised students at several community colleges and developed their career paths. Growing up in a modest Mexican-American household, myself. I went through my own cultural adjustments at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo during my undergraduate years. Through those experiences at Cal Poly, I had many past similarities with these students and it was extremely gratifying to assist them through their difficulties. Currently, I'm working for the Director of the Title V Program, Evelyn Calvillo, creating a statistical profile of Mexican-American transfer students assessing whether these students are at risk of academic probation. The goal of this program is to enhance the level of academic success and graduation rates among Mexican-American transfer students.

I'm interested in the international/financial side of economics, specifically topics focusing on foreign currency, futures, international financial instruments, and foreign monetary policy. While searching for a suitable doctoral program, I became particularly interested in the University of Washington's Graduate Program in Economics. Dr. Kon Lai, Professor of Economics at CSULA and my faculty sponsor, strongly recommended that I apply to the University of Washington for a number of reasons. With prestigious graduate placements, numerous faculty actively publishing in international economic

topics, and a respectable ranking among top Economic doctoral programs, it became more than evident that the University of Washington would match my own interests. In fact, I'm especially interested with Dr. Stephen Turnovsky and Dr. Eric Zivot's work and thus, my field of specialization at the University of Washington would be International Economics.

In terms of research, I've completed numerous independent research projects relating to this discipline of study. In fact, I wrote one of my best research papers in International Macroeconomics and Currency Crises (ECON 521) titled "Fluctuating Foreign Exchange and Profit Margins: The Case of the Japanese Exporter." It focused on Japanese pricing strategies in a market of fluctuating Yen prices. In addition to this project, I'm currently finalizing my Thesis, which revolves on some basic research questions dealing with a specific international financial instrument. In my study of World Equity Benchmark Shares (WEBS), also known as iShares, I pose two questions, "Are WEBS a viable international financial instrument and does it offer international diversity?" These are the types of research topics that I would like to focus on at the doctoral level. For future theoretical topics, I'm particularly interested in attempting to derive a mathematical model that could predict a future currency crisis. Although a lofty goal, I believe only at the doctoral level will I have a chance to derive such a complicated model of such global impact.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, I was nominated as a Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar. This award is granted to California State University students who show promise as potential doctoral students in their respective field of study. I'm especially proud of this award because the 83 Scholars were selected from the 23 schools in the California State University system.

At the end of December 2002, I will be receiving a Master of Arts in Economics from CSULA. For my short-term goals and right after graduation, I plan on enrolling at San Jose State University, taking intermediate math classes such as vector analysis and probability to further develop my math skills. I'm also applying for part-time teaching positions at community colleges where I plan to teach lower division macroeconomics and microeconomics. Teaching these subjects will solidify my current knowledge and properly round off my degree. With this experience, I hope to fine-tune my presence in front of a class and to earn funds in anticipation for a doctoral program. Another goal, before Fall 2003, will be to further my knowledge of the Japanese language and I plan to visit Japan in Summer 2003. Ultimately, my long-term goal is to teach and DO RESEARCH at a university.

As it turned out, I was one of three family members to graduate from a four-year university and I will be the first to graduate with a Master of Arts. In fact, I'll be the first in my entire generation to even contemplate studying at the doctoral level. Coming from a large Mexican-American family of over 70 cousins, 23 aunts/uncles, and 4 siblings, I am extremely proud to be part of that educational breakthrough for my family and future generations thereafter.

My work experience and education at CSTJLA have immensely contributed to my pursuit of a doctoral degree. One of the objectives at CSULA's Graduate Program in Economics, among other things, is to prepare its students for doctoral programs. After two years of education at CSULA, I truly believe that I'm prepared for the next step and that step is at the doctoral level at the University of Washington.

Sincerely,

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Applicant: Lawrence AngeAMIN **10011**