

My purpose in seeking a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art with a concentration in graphic design is to expand my knowledge and to keep challenging myself with opportunities to grow as a designer and as a teacher of design. I am preparing for lifelong learning and intellectual self-actualization as I prepare for a career in graphic design education. I feel that graphic design offers a path that inherently multidisciplinary, integrating the knowledge of art, tools, and technologies with people, their environment, and their imaginations.

When I consider myself as a potential educator, I am glad to know that I have striven always to make a difference wherever I can. As a volunteer and team member of the Summit University, I have donated my talents in graphic design to promote church seminars since 2016. My seminar posters in English and Spanish for various events are viewed worldwide throughout the year. These seminar posters are posted on the [www.summituniversity.org](http://www.summituniversity.org) for members and affiliated churches to see. In addition, I have served on the board of trustees of my local church, the Study Group of Miami, for four years as secretary. I volunteer with other affiliate churches as well, helping them with my graphic design skills.

At the Study Group of Miami, I have helped develop leadership in others by serving as an example of how far you can go in education with dedication and hard work. By being a student I have been example to others who did not feel they could handle school, work, and family. Besides that, I have been able to motivate many friends who doubted it was possible to earn a degree if English is not your first language. I know that I have shown perseverance and dedication to finishing a project to its fullest potential.

Although I have not yet formally been employed in the educational work

environment I have been a mentor for many classmates and friends while going to school and working in group projects at the church and in college. I graduated from opticianry school in 2001, and I have my Florida license. I have been working since then in optical store sales and helping people with their eyesight, including coordinating the donation of eyeglasses to people in need in south Brazil. In addition I have studied Montessori methods, which are meaningful to me and I believe can inform adult education.

My goals include taking a full advantage of my master's degree program, just as I did with my bachelor's degree. My plan is to deepen my knowledge of art and graphic design, and also I want to improve my leadership skills so I will be able to help the students in the field. The opportunity to experience the community and closeness with my future students as they work on their own design projects is really an inspiring thought--we will really learn with each other and grow.

Although I have no trouble working independently on projects, it is reassuring that as a group we get inspiration that comes from the group interaction that this program invites. Teaching college students is more than a one-way channel. I would learn from their questions, as my professors have told me they have from mine. I am looking forward to working with my professors and receiving them in my life as new friends.

After completing the master's program, I would like to to teach and also continue to work as a professional in graphic design as much as possible. Working and teaching in a field creates a synergy, as one is constantly exposed to new ideas and new technology, receiving knowledge and returning it again.