

When first going to college, I was very shy and quiet. It was an environment that was all new to me and different since I took a gap in learning after high school. At first, I was super nervous about going to college because nobody in my family had gone to college and it was like a new world for me to overcome. My experience at BCC as a first generation student was interesting because my biological mom and dad didn't go to college. They just stopped at high school, so I had to rely on other people such as UCP to help me with applying to college as it was confusing for me.

Once I visited the Disability Resource Center to get help with accommodations for classes, I was able to get the assistance I needed to get accommodations and also help on how to talk to professors. Picking classes was the hardest for me to do because I didn't know going through an advisor could help so much. I soon realized they helped me pick the right classes so I could finish sooner. Doing it on my own, I was picking classes that weren't to my degree/certificate choice and taking longer than I should have to complete the classes I needed to in order to graduate.

Deciding on a major was also hard for me because I knew I wanted to be a receptionist in a doctor's office because I've been in healthcare for most of my life due to my disability. The degree I originally chose didn't have anything medical in it so I switched my degree choice to Business Careers: Health Information Management to get some medical experience for working in a doctor's office or medical setting.

In 2015, I applied to TRIO and got accepted into the program. While classes were on campus I was very shy and I didn't go into TRIO that much. Then when COVID-19 hit, I got more involved and started to open up more and became less shy. I've also made new friends during my more active time in TRIO. Since entering college in 2014 to now, I have grown so much and seen myself become a more rounded person and more outgoing.