

William Ryan Townson
Cover Letter: EANGUT Scholarship Application
10 JAN 2024

I am currently stationed in San Diego, California as a United States Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician. My father currently serves in the Utah National Guard as a flight surgeon for the 151st Air Wing. I come from a family with deep military roots, and chose to follow the footsteps of my father into military service. This makes me proud to call America home. I grew up in the foothills of Utah skiing, mountain biking, and exploring the Wasatch back. I've always looked for the next enduring adventure to call my name. Currently in California, I have caught what many refer to as the "surfing bug". Learning to surf has taught me a multitude of important lessons. Just like learning to surf, I have always had a desire to learn new skills. This eagerness to learn has sparked my interest in furthering my education at the University of Utah's Master of Business Administration program.

I am applying for the EANGUT Scholarship because furthering one's education can empower one to influence change within an organization. As a mid-level enlisted sailor, my voice and influence only goes so far. Having the experience of operating in a multitude of different work environments, paired with the knowledge that higher education provides, would allow me to provide a unique and influential perspective to the organization, wherever that may be. This unique combination would not only help me grow individually but would allow me to make more educated, detailed, and thorough decisions for those who I serve alongside of.

Throughout my 27 years of life, I have had the opportunity to have a wealth of different experiences. From jumping out of an aircraft to collecting lab statistics for Auburn's Warrior Research Center (WRC), each experience although very different has taught me their respective lessons. During my time studying at Auburn, I learned the importance of time management, diligence, and application. I had the opportunity to work as a lab assistant at the WRC, speak Farsi, and obtain a degree in Biomedical Sciences. Handling the academic rigor of a Pre-medical degree while being a Midshipman in Navy ROTC, playing college lacrosse, and sustaining Farsi linguistic skills, allows me to apply to the EANGUT Scholarship with confidence. I know that I possess the tools to handle the academic rigor of a master's program and will ensure any financial aid isn't wasted if awarded. On the other hand, being a Navy EOD tech has taught me the invaluable skill of working with my hands while at the same time instilling a "figure it out" attitude. I am a firm believer that you get out what you put into a program. In EOD, the more things you tinker with and try to understand, the better off you are when things break or problems arise. The more time I spend fixing robots, taking apart a gun, or working on dive rigs, the deeper understanding I have of how each system works. This can directly relate to the educational world. The more time you spend understanding the details of complex problems, theories, and global issues, the deeper understanding you will have about how the world and its people operate around you. All in all, furthering one's education builds a strong foundation for success both in and out of the military, corporate, and educational spectrum. The EANGUT scholarship does not simply stop at tuition aid, it furthers my ability to lead, help, and positively influence those around me.