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| New york city college of technology |
| Professional Essay Assignment |
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| Jie Lan Mai  **Fall 2012-Spring 2013**  **HUS 1207 Section 2848** |
| **Prof. Hall** |
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My name is Jie Lan Mai. I am Chinese. I was born in Guang Dong, China. I have three siblings, and I am the second child in my family, what my parents said as being their most sensible and well-behaved child. At the age of seventeen, I immigrated to the United States with my family. Recently, I have been living in Sunset Part which is located in South Brooklyn, New York. It is a diverse and densely populated neighborhood that has long been a first destination of immigrants from around the world. The college that I attend is New York City College of Technology, and I have chosen Human Services as my career. I am pursuing a Master Degree in Human Services.

The reason that I decided to become a Human Service Worker is a long story. When I was in high school, I dreamed that someday I would be a nurse, so that I would be proud. I was always imaging that I was walking with a white uniform on. So that is why I chose nursing as my college major. Fortunately, I was accepted by the Nursing Department and enrolled in the nursing program. I was very happy to be helping patients when we took clinical courses in a hospital. I am thankful for this opportunity which let me know that I have a mild fear of blood. I asked myself, “How could a nurse have fear of blood, and then how can you help the patient with a wound?” After that clinical class, I decided that a nursing career would be too stressful for me, and it wasn’t the way I wanted to help others. After I told my concerns to my friend, she inspired me to switch my major to Human Services which she thought would fit my personality, and it has so many opportunities and so many different settings that keep me hopeful. As that I started to keep my eyes on Human Services, I read through the description of courses. I thought I could do this, and I decided to become a Human Service worker because I knew it would still be within the caring environment, and I would still be able to make a huge change within a person’s life. Being a Human Service Worker is not just about telling others what they can or can’t do, but to empower them and inspire them to help themselves, so I decided to go into the Human Services profession.

I believe in order to enhance my effectiveness for professional practiced; I should not only have my personal strengths, but also have professional strengths as well. My personal strength is that I am friendly, hard working and have passion in working with people. I believe it is very important to have passion for the work you are working in. without passion, you will have no goal and you will not be able to be successful. With my passion, I believe not only in myself and that I will be successful, but also this passion will help other to be successful. My professional strengths come from both my education and job experiences. First, the skills that I gained from the course that I took in college, such as mathematics course enhanced my problem solving skills. Modern Art let me learn about cultures from other countries; Community Health helped me to gain an understanding of the causes of a specific health problem within that community; English composition I &II helped me learn to make my writing more concise and organized. Also, I learned how to better edit, read, and compose documents. An Introduction to HUS course helped me to see the professional aspect of the social work profession, how empathy and kindness alone cannot help your clients if you don’t follow the professional guidelines. On the other hand, the skills that I took from my job helped me learn how to communicate with clients having different personality. This was especially important when clients were being received in a clinical reception; I learned communication and analytical problem solving skills, as well as how to refer the client to the right service according to their needs.

The population that I would like to work with is immigrants. I am going to go into the field of working with immigrants since I can empathize with their situations because I once was in their shoes. As one of immigrants, I understand their feelings and concerns as they have immigrated to a strange city, and they are meeting all the strangers in this culturally diverse country. Many of the new immigrant families have limited access to a broad range of supports, including public benefits and educational opportunities. They confront challenges related to legal status and citizenship, language barriers, and the loss of social networks, status, power and other challenges of adjusting to life in the United States. Employment and affordable housing are pressing concerns for many families. I believe all of above services are what many of new immigrant families need. In order to professionally serve this population, I need to be aware of cultural differences. I should learn about different cultures, and understand what individual perceptions of the human service professional are. Since some ethnic groups don’t want to be sharing their problems and concerns, they believe that asking someone for help means embarrassment and would bring shame to the family. In order to help them, I should understand these cultural barriers. One of the human service skills that I have begun to develop is the ability to help client identify relatively permanent sources of support in his or her environment. These skills can reduce clients’ stress which they have faced when they moved to USA, as well as encourage them to identify sources of social support from family member, friends, and other.

To envision my career path from the time of graduation to ten years following, first I would get my associate degree in Human Services, and then I would go on for my Bachelor’s in Human Services, and then I would continue my progress for my Masters. Between that, I will find a job and an internship related to my career in order to build and strengthen relationships with people to help them in their endeavors. Also, I would like to take the foreign language course to understand different languages. I want to be able to empower people who are oppressed and be a change agent not only nationally, but also internationally.

I am looking forward to working with immigration and helping them. In this field, I know that every day there will bring new cases with new challenges, and that every day isn’t going to be success story, but I’m willing to be a part of that and deal will challenges that come my way. In terms of my future career path, I’m confident that if I do my work with excellence, opportunities will inevitably open up for me.