

Nuam Muan

9th Grade

Glenpool High School

Oklahoma

What drives me

When I first entered 6th grade, I was asked what I wanted to be. I immediately knew my answer was going to be a nurse. Helping people and being there for them has always been my love language. I am well aware that on the journey of becoming what I want to be, the roads will be rough. That is why I will commit myself to reaching my fullest potential to make my family proud. What drives me is my enthusiastic desire to attend college because of my siblings, my parents' happiness, and my future.

Wanting to attend college because of my siblings is one of the reasons that drives me to work hard. My parents took me and my siblings to the United States for better opportunities. Being the oldest of 8 kids, I started changing their diapers, feeding them, and clothing them by the age of 7. When I turned 10, I learned to wash dishes, clean the house, and fold their clothes. I've always tried to come home with good grades so that my siblings see how much education means a lot for our future. They've spent their lives following my footsteps, trusting that I lead

them somewhere worth going. That is why I want to show them where education can lead them in life. There are so many responsibilities that are on my back, but even so, I want to be someone my siblings can look up to.

Another reason I want to attend college is to achieve something my parents never got to. Children's education wasn't important from where they came from. My mom managed to finish middle school. My dad, on the other hand, had to stop going to school in grade 3. At that age, my dad was told to make money and do house chores. For a very long time, all he has done is work for money to provide us with things he never had when he was younger, including an education. Letting me go through what he went through was his biggest fear. My dad doesn't want me to work, fearing that I might want money first instead of education. As their eldest daughter, they set their heart on me going to college and becoming someone great. I want nothing more in life than to achieve what they worked hard for.

My last reason for wanting to attend college is because my future depends on it. I want to go into the medical field and help people. That's why I chose nursing. I know what it's like to feel vulnerable and in need of care. I want to be the person who provides comfort and support, particularly for underprivileged communities, immigrants, and refugees who often feel overlooked in the healthcare system. My journey to nursing is rooted in my experience as a refugee from Burma, growing up in Malaysia, and overcoming trauma before moving to a new country at six years old. These struggles taught me resilience and fueled my passion for helping others, especially those who feel unseen and unheard.

Life as a refugee was never easy. In Malaysia, my family faced constant uncertainty, limited access to healthcare, and the struggle to belong. Moving to a new country brought safety but also new challenges—learning a new language, adapting to a different culture, and carrying the emotional weight of my past. Nevertheless through it all, I saw how kindness, especially from those in healthcare, could change lives. My background has shaped me into someone who is strong, compassionate, and determined to make a difference. Nursing isn't just a career, it's my way of turning past struggles into hope and healing for others.

In the end, my drive to attend college is motivated by my desire to honor, make my parents proud and not let their sacrifices be in vain, set an example for my siblings, and fulfill my dream of helping others in the medical field. Education is more than just a personal achievement, it's more about creating new opportunities for my family and my future generations! I am determined to make the most of this opportunity, not only for myself but for my family. With hard work and dedication, I will turn their sacrifices into success and become someone they can be proud of.