

Applicant Essay

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mason Collie, and I am a student at the University of Houston. Fall 2022 is my second semester at UH. I previously attended Texas A&M- Galveston from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021. I graduated from Archway Academy in Spring 2020 as Valedictorian of my class. While this is an achievement I am proud of, it came with much hardship and difficulty.

Before attending Archway, I was spiraling into severe drug and alcohol abuse as a high school junior. Due to subsequent legal trouble, I was withdrawn from that school, placed in an adolescent rehabilitation facility, and entered a life of addiction recovery. Since March 28th, 2019, I have not consumed a mind-altering substance, an achievement for which I am proud. But how does this qualify me for an endowment, one may ask? Sobriety is only the means in which I am able to be successful and help others, not a grand achievement in itself. I am much more interested in discussing my accomplishments after hitting my rock bottom.

After treatment, I joined a community of young people called Cornerstone. The program is designed for staying sober and treating self-destructive behaviors. I learned a lot about the importance of integrity, community spirit, and service work for others. Service is a huge part of my story. As a member of both Cornerstone and Alcoholics Anonymous, part of the experience is picking up a sponsor. A sponsor is someone who is able to teach the 12-Steps and the principles of recovery. My sponsor, Mark, is that person for me. We met after a recovery event, and after speaking to him for a few minutes, I asked him to sponsor me. I didn't ask him because he was particularly successful in the material sense. I picked up because he met me, a dishonest and self-centered newcomer who was scared witless, with real, vulnerable human understanding. He treated me with patience and kindness that I had never known, and I didn't even ask for it. I

feel that being taught the principles of recovery, not by a councilor, probation officer, clergyman, or teacher, but by just another alcoholic like me is the only way I could have recovered. That relationship has continued, and Mark is still my sponsor to this day.

Months after I began working with Mark, I took up my own mantle as a sponsor in order to freely give that which was given to me. I have shared my program of recovery through the 12 Steps and my experience, strength, and hope in the form of sponsorship with over thirty young men, eight of which are still actively working with me on a weekly basis. With the help of a Higher Power, I have been able to effectively and compassionately apply my experience in order to give the gift of recovery to many who wouldn't have had the opportunity otherwise.

Archway Academy, the high school designed for recovery that I graduated from, was another vessel in which I was able to be of service, and it showed me the importance of combining education and recovery. As the Student Body President of my class, I was able to graduate at the top of my class, a moment that seemed lost to me at one point. I then began my journey in higher education at Texas A&M University- Galveston, not without major difficulty. I experienced extreme mental health issues, and as a result, I felt somewhat lost. My family refused to help me financially due to legal and treatment fees, so I was on my own financially. Therefore, I had to figure out how to support myself financial since then. I was commuting from Galveston to North Houston every weekend to work as a server at Olive Garden, and then Little Pappacitos. On top of that, I kept up with all of my service commitments to the recovery community. However, despite these hardships, I refused to give up. I decided in Fall 2021 to pursue medicine, a more fitting career for me, as it has real purpose and meaning, and it combines my passion for science and service.

Transferring to UH has been the best decision I've made for myself. Attending school closer to my apartment has allowed me to spend time on myself doing things such as collecting vintage vinyl records and comic books, reading science fiction, doing yoga, mountain biking, golfing, and participating in softball tournaments. Attending Archway taught me the importance of combining recovery and education, so I decided to join Cougars in Recovery (CIR), a very similar program to Cornerstone for people in recovery from substances, mental health, and self-destructive behaviors. I have subsequently co-founded the Steering Committee within CIR, the service and community outreach arm of CIR. This semester we plan to take 12-Step meetings to treatment centers, feed the homeless, and organize sober tailgates for the university football games. I've also become a trained mentor for CIR in which I am in a position to help freshman students and transfer students have a smoother transition into higher education, and I'm also in the unique position to say, "I've been there." My past truly has become my greatest asset, and as a result of Mark forming a bond with me, I still carry the torch of service and mentorship to others.

All of these accomplishments notwithstanding, I'm far from being done. I completed a summer internship with the UTHealth OB/GYN department that sparked an interest in women's health and wellness, and as a result I will be attending two mission trips, one in April to Guatemala and two in May and June to Ghana and Greece, where a team of physicians and I will perform well-woman exams, administer birth control to those who want it, and provide education to rural parts of these countries. I am applying for an internship at MD Anderson to shadow physicians who are fighting cancer. I am starting a new job with the Maternal-Fetal Medicine department of Memorial Hermann in which I will act as a Research Support Assistant. Even more so, I am seeking new ways of being of service to my community and to grow in my

connection to God. All of these reasons are sufficient to prove that I am a deserving student of the FindRehab.org Educational Scholarship.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write to you about Mason Collie. I am a teacher at Archway Academy, and Mason was a student in my English IV class two years ago. I can say that Mason is one of the most outstanding students I have had the pleasure of knowing and teaching. His maturity, intelligence, and leadership skills make him an excellent student and an ideal candidate for any scholarship.

What separates Mason from his peers is his maturity and kindness. Wise beyond his years, Mason is an old soul. As a person in long term recovery, he has been a rock of a sponsor to many younger people. Archway Academy is devoted to teens in recovery, and since Mason's graduation, I have heard many of our students speak about how much his kind accountability has helped them remain sober. Concomitant with his maturity is his strong work ethic. Mason frequently came in before school to spend additional time perfecting his class work. Importantly, he is very open to feedback and constructive criticism, which also demonstrates humility and maturity.

Mason is also highly intelligent. In class, he consistently asked probing questions and sought to understand the material on a deeper level. Mason's input in our class discussions was invaluable, as he took them in directions that I had not contemplated, allowing the entire class to explore interesting concepts. His curiosity knows no bounds, as he possesses a deep knowledge of anything from literature to music to medicine. Likewise, Mason is a gifted writer. One of his papers in my class covered an astute analysis of James Joyce short stories, demonstrating superior analytical skills, voice, and a command of the language.

Inside and outside the classroom, Mason is a natural leader. In class, his consistent engagement and curiosity was infectious and inspired his peers to do the same. He is also a leader in the world of recovery, guiding others both in the way he lives his own life, but also as a sponsor to many. He leads naturally and with humility, again speaking to his maturity. Mason aspires to be a doctor, and with his drive and skill set, I believe he will make that happen.

As an exceptionally mature and bright individual who is driven to excellence, and as a leader among his peers, Mason would make an excellent candidate for your scholarship. For these reasons, I enthusiastically recommend Mason.

Christopher M. Miller

Archway Academy, cmiller@swschools.org, 281-546-4650

Unofficial Transcript

Name: Mason L Collie
Student ID: 1979553

Print Date: 08/25/2022

SSN: XXX-XX-1438
 Birthdate: XXXX-10-17

Request Reason: Web Transcript Request
 Other Institutions Attended:

Texas A&M University-College Station
 PO Box 30014
 College Station, TX 77842-3014

Lone Star College System
 20000 Kingwood Dr
 Kingwood, TX 77339-3899

The Phoenix School at SW Schools
 Ste 200
 3333 Bering Dr
 Houston, TX 77057-6727

Beginning of Undergraduate Record**SP 2022**

Program: LASS Undergraduate
Plan: Anthropology, BS Major

<u>Course</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
ANTH 2301 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Intro to Physical Anthropology (80) Core-Social & Behavioral Science Katherine Anne McElvaney	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
ANTH 2302 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Introduction to Archeology (80) Core-Social & Behavioral Science Kenneth L Brown	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
PHIL 1301 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Intro To Philosophy (40) Core-Language, Philosophy & Culture Helen Hattab	3.000	3.000	A-	11.010
PHIL 1321 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Logic I (90) Core-Math/Reasoning, Component Area Option Cameron J Buckner	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
PSYC 2344 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Cultural Psychology (81) Core-Writing in Discipline WID Sana Haddad	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
SOCI 1301 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Introduction To Sociology (80) Core-Social & Behavioral Science Jennifer Lauren Adams	3.000	3.000	A	12.000

Unofficial Transcript

Name: Mason L Collie
 Student ID: 1979553

Transfer Credit from Lone Star College System

Applied Toward LASS Undergraduate

Course	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
BIOL 1309	Biol for Non-Science Majors II	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
BIOL ELEC	Biology Elec	1.000	1.000	A	0.000
BIOL 1308	Biology for Non-Science Majors	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
BIOL ELEC	Biology Elec	1.000	1.000	A	0.000
COMM ELEC	Comm Elec	3.000	0.000	W	0.000
COSC 1300	Introduction To Computing	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
ENGL 1302	First Year Writing II	3.000	0.000	W	0.000
ENGL 1301	First Year Writing I	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
ENVS ELEC	Environmental Science Elec	4.000	4.000	A	0.000
GOVT 2306	US and Texas Const/Politics	3.000	0.000	W	0.000
GOVT 2305	US Govt: Congress, Pres & Crts	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
HDFS 1311	Personal Dev and College Succ	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
HIST 1378	The U S Since 1877	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
HIST 1377	The U S To 1877	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
MATH ELEC	Math Elec	3.000	0.000	W	0.000
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
MUSI ELEC	Music Elec	3.000	0.000	W	0.000
PEB ELEC	PE Basic Instr Prog Elec	1.000	1.000	A	0.000
PEB ELEC	PE Basic Instr Prog Elec	1.000	1.000	A	0.000
PSYC 2301	Introduction to Psychology	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
Course Trans GPA:	0.000	Transfer Totals:	0.000	38.000	0.000

Transfer Credit from Texas A&M University-College Station

Applied Toward LASS Undergraduate

Course	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
ANTH 2351	Intro to Cultural Anthropology	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
ARTS 1304	Art Hist II(15th C to Present)	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
CHEM 1117	Fund.Of Chem for Engineers Lab	1.000	1.000	B	0.000
CHEM ELEC	Chemistry Elec	3.000	3.000	B	0.000
ENGI ELEC	Engr Elec	2.000	2.000	B	0.000
ENGI ELEC	Engr Elec	2.000	2.000	C	0.000
ENGL 1302	First Year Writing II	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
ENGL ELEC	English Elec	3.000	3.000	A	0.000
GENR ELEC	General Elec	1.000	1.000	S	0.000
GOVT 2306	US and Texas Const/Politics	3.000	3.000	B	0.000
MATH 2413	Calculus I	4.000	4.000	B	0.000
MATH ELEC	Math Elec	4.000	4.000	C	0.000
PHYS 2325	University Physics I (lecture)	3.000	3.000	B	0.000
Course Trans GPA:	0.000	Transfer Totals:	0.000	35.000	0.000

			Attempted	Earned	GPA Units	Points
Term GPA	3.945	Term Totals	18.000	18.000	18.000	71.010
Term Honor:	Dean's List					
	Good Academic Standing					

SU 2022

Program: LASS Undergraduate
 Plan: Anthropology, BS Major

Unofficial Transcript

Name: Mason L Collie
Student ID: 1979553

Course	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
BIOL 1106 Instructor:	Biol for Science Majors I(Lab) Ana I Medrano Bandana Sharma Chapagain	1.000	1.000	A	4.000
BIOL 1306 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Biology for Science Majors I (30) Core-Life & Physical Sciences Jenifer Gifford	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
PSYC 2319 Instructor:	Intro to Social Psychology Surizaday Serrano Aguirre	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
PSYC 4321 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Abnormal Psychology (81) Core-Writing in Discipline WID Antoine M Lebeaut	3.000	3.000	A	12.000
Term GPA	4.000	Term Totals	10.000	10.000	10.000
	Good Academic Standing				40.000

FA 2022

Program: LASS Undergraduate
Plan: Psychology, BS Major

Course	Description	Attempted	Earned	Grade	Points
BIOL 2101 Instructor:	Anatomy & Physiology Lab I Tejendra Gill Maariya Syed	1.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
BIOL 2301 Instructor:	Anatomy & Physiology I (lect) Tejendra Gill	3.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
CHEM 1111 Instructor:	Fundamentals of Chm Lab Vladimir G Zaitsev Zhencheng Dong	1.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
CHEM 1311 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Fundamentals of Chemistry (30) Core-Life & Physical Sciences Russell Gene Larsen	3.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
IDNS 1141 Instructor:	Chemistry I SEP Workshop Donna Pattison Eduardo Cerna Jessica Ramirez	1.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
PSYC 2305 Instructor:	Intro to Methods in Psychology Harun Yoruk	3.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
PSYC 2316 Instructor:	Psychology of Personality Tonya N Inman	3.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
PSYC 2317 Course Attributes: Instructor:	Intro to Psychology Statistics (90) Core-Math/Reasoning, Component Area Option Jace D Pierce	3.000	0.000	In Progress	0.000
Term GPA	0.000	Term Totals	18.000	0.000	0.000
Undergraduate Career Totals					
Cum GPA:	3.965	Cum Totals	46.000	28.000	28.000
					111.010

Milestones

TSI MATH
Status: Completed
Date Completed: 10/16/2019

TSI READING
Status: Completed
Date Completed: 05/01/2019

TSI WRITE
Status: Completed
Date Completed: 05/01/2019

Unofficial Transcript

Name: Mason L Collie
Student ID: 1979553

Texas State Mandated Core
Status: Completed

End of Unofficial Transcript