

Letter of Intent by Michael Kuo

I pursued a program in occupational therapy because I wanted a career that is both intellectually challenging and would make a difference in other people's lives. Through work and clinical experiences, I have found how rewarding it is to see others benefit from occupational therapy.

The reasons why I'd like to further my education with MHA relates directly to occupational therapy. There is one matter I am discontented with in this profession – occupational therapy has not been made well known to the general public and even to other health care professions. Not fully understanding the function of occupational therapy within a setting could lead to ineffective teamwork and improper utilization of the services offered by occupational therapists. The health care system is shifting toward program management, so it is especially important to know exactly what role each profession plays in a multidisciplinary team.

I am motivated to advocate for occupational therapy by examining its practice. My personal experience tells me that occupational therapy works. However, to advocate for this profession, evidence on the efficacy of its practice needs to be examined scientifically. I'd like to assist in examining the practice through promotion of research and publication of evidence.

The short-term goal for me would be to pursue a managerial position as a manager of occupational therapy or a program manager. In the long run, I would like to pursue a higher management position (i.e. within the Regional Health Authority) to promote examination of the practice and also to advocate for occupational therapy. I am confident that this program will equip me with the skills needed to achieve my career goals. The fact that courses are offered on weekends allows me to be a practicing occupational therapist while studying.

I think I am well qualified for the MHA program. Academic-wise I have maintained an A average throughout my study at University of Manitoba. Occupational therapy has been a challenging program, both personally and intellectually and I believe that it has prepared me well for MHA.

I assume that my referees have adequately addressed my qualifications. I hope you will seriously consider me as a student in your program. I sincerely believe I would make an excellent at UBC. UBC has been known for its high standards and I am prepared to work hard in order to meet them. Thank you for your consideration.