

# Autobiographic Personal Statement

For over 22 years, my career has been defined by a relentless commitment to serving others, optimizing human performance, and leading teams through complex, high-stakes challenges. Serving as a Sergeant Major in the United States Army and graduating from Class 73 of the Sergeants Major Academy instilled in me a profound understanding of organizational leadership and the critical importance of structured, effective training. My foundational experiences as a Combat Medic and Behavioral Health Specialist provided me with a unique lens on human behavior, resilience, and motivation. These early roles drove my initial academic pursuits, culminating in a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's in Healthcare Management, and laid the groundwork for my current trajectory in the learning sciences.

As my leadership responsibilities expanded, so did my focus on how adults learn, adapt, and perform. I recognized that systemic performance gaps could not be solved by leadership alone; they required targeted, scientifically backed educational interventions. This realization sparked my passion for Instructional Systems Design (ISD). Upon completion of my Master's Degree in Instructional Design at Syracuse University, I would have formalized my ability to engineer learning environments. I am highly proficient in applying frameworks such as the ADDIE and Seels and Glasgow models to conduct rigorous needs and gap analyses, sequence content, and evaluate learning outcomes.

Looking forward, my post-graduate plans and career goals are centered on bridging the gap between advanced instructional theory and large-scale project execution. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Instructional Design and Technology at Liberty University to further research how systemic training methodologies can transform organizational effectiveness at the highest levels. Concurrently, I am working toward my Project Management Professional (PMP) certification to formalize my ability to lead complex, cross-functional design initiatives from conception through evaluation. My ultimate career goal is to direct learning and development programs that serve as strategic drivers for organizational success, whether in academic, corporate, or government sectors.

What makes my approach unique is the synthesis of my background: the empathetic, analytical perspective of a behavioral health professional, the strategic execution of a senior military leader, and the rigorous methodologies of a formally trained instructional designer. I do not view instructional design merely as the creation of training materials; I view it as a strategic tool to elevate human potential and solve complex operational challenges. I am dedicated to continuing this journey of lifelong learning and engineering solutions that empower individuals to perform at their absolute best.