

# Miranda Morgan

## *1. What interests you about our program at Austin Peay State University?*

I am about to be an Austin Peay graduate with my Bachelor in Science. I have enjoyed and appreciated my time being an APSU student on the Fort Campbell campus, main Clarksville campus, and the online platform. As a student, I have felt that the faculty and staff have cared about my interests and my future. I was provided with plenty of opportunities and services that I took full advantage of when my schedule allowed. I have made many connections here and would like to continue my education with APSU.

## *2. How would earning this degree add to your career aspirations and goals? Please explain.*

It has been a long-term goal of mine to earn a degree from a graduate program. Again, I am graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy. I have a career goal to become a lead or senior radiation therapist, which I can strive for within 3-5 years of experience in the field. This timeline will allow me to complete a master's program while also furthering my career skills. Earning an MHA will make me a more appealing candidate for clinic supervisor, increasing my chances of achieving my long-term goals. Another benefit of earning this degree is the fact that my family is a military family. In the future, if we are relocated to an area that does not have a radiation oncology clinic within a feasible distance, then I will still have the option to work in healthcare field opportunities.

## *3. Explain your comfort level with online learning? Provide examples of courses you have taken online and the type of assignments/interaction you had with the class/instructor.*

I earned my first Associate degree while serving in the military, and it was done entirely online. The subsequent courses that I took to attain my current degree plan were accomplished, with approximately one-third of them being online, including core classes and required degree courses. Aside from lab work, assignments done on the online platforms were all things that would be included in an in-person class, and no "shortcuts" were given to accomplish these. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, my online interactions between my classmates and instructors mainly included exchanges on the discussion boards or emails. There were a few occasions that I was able to meet with my instructors during proctored exams and a few random meetings. However, due to the pandemic, I have now been able to expand those interactions to platforms such as Zoom. Although online platforms are still not as meaningful as in-person interactions, it has provided an excellent opportunity for individuals like me who need or want to work while still achieving their further educational goals. It has also obviously proven to be highly vital for us to work around the current pandemic.

## *4. While earning your degree, there will be two instances where you will be expected to be on campus. These happen to be for the first weekend of residency and for your last course. Do you see any issues with this requirement?*

I do not see any issues with me being able to attend the two required weekend residencies. I do hopefully plan to gain employment shortly after graduating. The medical field is definitely one that stresses continuing your education or staying up-to-date on the many ever-changing topics and areas of medicine. So while I may have to take time off without pay or leave, I am

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committed to achieving my goal in completing this program, and I see no issues occurring with getting the time off with my employer. I also see no problems at all for completing the weekend residency during the final course.

5. *Take as much space as you need to tell us about yourself and include what your peers and former teachers would say about you.*

I joined the military shortly after graduating high school and served for five years. After leaving the military, I moved to Germany with my husband, who was still active-duty military, and I worked at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. We then were moved from Germany to Hawai'i, where we started our family. After moving to Virginia, I began to complete core requirements for my Bachelor's degree plan. I transferred to APSU when we moved into the area where I could finish my degree plan.

I successfully adjusted to entirely in-person classes and took advantage of many opportunities at APSU while maintaining my high standards for my grades. I became the class president of my radiation therapy class while also getting nominated as president of Lambda Nu honor society, an honor society dedicated to the radiologic and imaging sciences. I have also been inducted into the honor societies of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), Golden Key, and Alpha Sigma Lambda. I have been very involved in the NSLS, where I continued to facilitate success networking teams and achieved my executive leadership status within the organization. The NSLS also helped me find my love of volunteering, and I have spent time helping at Manna Café and fostering with a local Clarksville animal rescue.

My current and former instructors have always told me that they appreciate my work ethic, commitment, and interest in my studies and various on-takings. I take pride in the fact that my current instructors come to me to ask for my opinions on various topics. My peers would think of me as an individual that excels in all that I commit to, and they would think of me as being "super extra." Many people have told me that they have no idea how I accomplish all that I have on my plate. However, I have had a handful of individuals tell me that they use me as an example in their tasks or accomplishments. Some have set goals to do better than me on something like an exam or significant assignment. While this could be taken negatively by others, I love it when people tell me this. I am grateful that others would consider seeing me at that higher level. I think it's humbling that my accomplishments are a driving factor behind others pushing themselves to perform at a higher level.