lived in Spain for two years, and am fluent in Spanish. Therefore I am very interested in working with Dr. Luis A. Vázquez in his bilingual counseling. I feel that I could be a great service to my community if I had bilingual skills in counseling. It is my concern that there are many Spanish-American people that does not receive the help they need due to a language barrier. Along the same lines, I am interested in working with Dr. Rod J. Merta due to his expertise in addictions and multicultural counseling. Some of the research conducted by Dr. Charles H. Huber on family and marriage holds great interest for me. The family is the cornerstone of society. I am very interested in working with younger people. Therefore, I would be interested in working with Dr. Peggy Kaczmarsk in her study of child and adolescent therapy. Any and all of these professors would be great mentors for my goals as a professional.

It is easy to see that New Mexico State University has much to offer to a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. I am very impressed with the focus of research that the professors are conducting. I feel that the university holds the goals that I am looking for. My favorite is rule #13 which states, "Students will be expected to integrate the roles of psychologist, counselor, and researcher, to assess their own strengths and weaknesses, and to remain open and committed to both personal and professional growth." I strongly feel that this says it all. I know that I can be a great asset to New Mexico State University. Thank you.

Sample #2

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe psychology is intended to help individuals through careful examination of human behavior, cognition, and neurological development. The development of the field yields two important branches, psychotherapy and research. I believe the two branches rely heavily upon another. The research branch investigates the nature of human behavior, tests theories, and provides a vast knowledge base from which new ideas can grow. The psychotherapy branch provides an outlet for the application of theories and reciprocates new ideas to be tested and investigated by researchers. The concept of a scientist-practitioner is the primary reason why I want to study clinical psychology. The combination of the two paths yields a great ability in improving mental health and further expanding the field of psychology. The flexibility of applied research, psychotherapy, and assessment has drawn me to the field of clinical psychology. Through my experiences as an undergraduate student I have come to appreciate the intensity and skill in conducting clinical services and research.

As I started my college education career I knew I wanted to join the field of psychology. I performed well as a student in high school and continued to do well into college. Unfortunately, during my first year and a half in school I never heard of any opportunities to be a part of a research staff. I did not even know that research existed at my university. Then at the end of my second year of school I transferred to Boise State University. Boise State University clearly and explicitly explained the importance of research to the field of psychology as well as the benefits I would receive in interacting with professors in conducting research. This was a rude awakening; at that moment I felt I had wasted the first years of my undergraduate education.

Once I realized the time and opportunity I had wasted, I immediately sought after a professor who would accept me as a research assistant. I was fortunate enough to work with Dr. Keil Braitman. The project I was assigned to involved the media's impact on male body image. I initially started the project collecting data, data entry, and data analysis. As the project continued, I found myself in a lead role of the research project. I earned the responsibilities of leading a focus group, participating in a focus group, collaborating on experimental method and design, development of questionnaires, data collection in both large group settings and on an individual basis, debriefing of participants, data entry into statistical analysis program (SPSS), item analysis, and presentation of the research at a local and regional conference. Dr. Braitman excelled in allowing her students to take the lead role in the development of the project, conducting the research, and presenting the results. Not only did I gain knowledge and experience from the research, I became excited about research. I was eager to learn more about research methodology, psychological measurement, and quantitative methods. I elected to enroll in all the classes I could that explored the field of psychological research.