About Me:

 My name is Nicholas Miller I graduated from Meridian High School in 2015 and currently I am a sophomore at Baylor University studying pre-health biology with a pre-dental track. I plan on graduating from Baylor in 2019. After graduation, I hope to attend dental school the following fall, preferably closer to home but as I have been told the best dental school is the one you get accepted to. I enjoy spending time with friends and family, attending Baylor football games, working out, and sleeping when allotted the time to.

My Experience:

 As a senior in high school, the thought of college was not really made a priority as if I thought things would just fall into place. Fortunately, that was eventually the case. I received an interest email from Baylor University’s admissions office explaining Baylor’s mission as a university, which led to further research on the school. Baylor is a private Baptist university located in Waco, Texas and is currently ranked #71 amongst all national universities. Initially I did not see myself attending school outside of the Washington state lines let alone as far as Texas but the more I looked into the university the more I desired to visit and eventually attend. My family was not excited to see me leave Washington, but due to the school’s ability to provide numerous scholarships, Baylor was the more cost effective choice. Shockingly enough Baylor was cheaper compared to the other schools I applied to in state and other out of state schools.

After I committed to Baylor the thought of being completely alone without any relatives nearby and living with two random roommates never crossed my mind. This thought or feeling really didn’t hit me until the first day of classes. At that moment I realized I was on my own in a new unfamiliar region. Luckily, my roommates were in a similar situation and from that we all bonded and eventually became good friends. I also joined social clubs that allowed me to meet and form relationships with more people with similar interests and career goals. These relationships helped me cope with the absence of family and friends. Aside from social interactions, Baylor itself oddly provides a homey atmosphere. There is an implied feeling of acceptance of all students within the university. From this feeling I never truly felt 2234 miles away from home.

As for the academics, the first round of tests was quite nerve racking due to the increase in not only the work load but the mastery of the information pertaining to each course. Fortunately, Baylor provides endless forms of assistance. From keeping in touch with friends at other universities, I have come to the realization that Baylor has proven their ability to provide the tools for success for its students, you just have to put in the initiative. Personally, I only use SI as a resource. SI is a study group specific to the course and section. In each SI there is an upperclassman providing study guides for each chapter, study tips, information regarding the ways the professor tests the students and practice tests. The assistance Baylor provides reduced the stress of learning how to study and simplified the steps to becoming successful in college. Fortunately, my first year away at Baylor was nothing but an enjoyable experience full of new people, places, opportunities and memories.

As I reflect on the decision to leave Washington for further education, I would make such a decision over and over again. Leaving forced me to grow into an independent, self-driven individual, but I would admit it is not meant for everyone. That being said, I would still advise those in search of colleges to look outside of their home states. When considering out of state look at private universities and not to fret about their higher costs of tuition because, from my experience, most of them will provide more scholarships.

Thank you for your taking the time to read about my experience at an out of state school and as always,

Sic ’Em Bears!