

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Associate Director of Admissions/Director of Multicultural Recruitment at DePauw University



## Curtis Ferguson II

Oberlin College, Class of 2005

### **Describe your current position**

I currently serve as an Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Multicultural Recruitment at DePauw University. In this positions, fifty percent of my job is admissions while the other half is spent in student life. Due to this setup, I am able to work with talented students of color and other multicultural students from the application process all the way through graduation day.

### **What does an average work day and year look like for you?**

About thirty percent of my job is spent traveling all throughout the United States and the world. Places I have been to globally include Pakistan and South Korea, so I could tell international high school students about DePauw University.

Another fifty percent of my job is spent on campus doing evaluations. That work consists of looking at applications for admission, assessing whether or not applicants would be a good fit for the school, and then yielding the students we accept.

The remaining twenty of my job is spent working with current students, listening and talking to them about their interests and passions. On campus, I serve as an academic advisor and help track the academic progression of my advisees at DePauw Universities. I also help students in co-curricular activities by attending student events, taking students to conferences, and just being a good role model for students.

### **What was the biggest factor in landing the job that you have now?**

Two things: my liberal arts background and my advanced degrees. I went to a Oberlin College, a liberal arts school, for undergrad and was familiar with how to navigate a small, private school. That experience made it easier for me to transition back to a liberal arts setting at DePauw University. I also applied to this job with two masters' degrees in business administration and college student personnel, so made me more marketable as well.



**What are the best and worst thing about working in your current role?**

The best thing about my job is the student engagement. I love working with students and talking to them about their passion. The only limitation is that DePauw University, like most institutions has a finite budget, and is not able to be affordable to every student that I encounter.

**How would you recommend students get involved in this field? What resources or opportunities can you share?**

The first way is to talk with other student affairs professionals on your campus; don't be afraid to network. The other way is to become involved with NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and ACPA-American College Personnel Association. Both are large professional organizations dedicated to preparing young professionals to enter the field of student affairs. These organizations also have conferences that undergraduates can attend under special leadership tracks.

**What's your dream job? What's next?**

My dream job has always been to become the Dean of Admissions at a small, predominantly White, liberal arts college. That is one of the reasons why I am working at DePauw now, as it is giving a direct pipeline to attain this dream.

