

DEMA ISKANDER

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

Why did you decide to go to grad school?

For me personally, grad school was not always the plan. After earning my Bachelor's degree at Oakland, I continued to work full time. Eventually I began to miss school and, also, I realized that the field of work I was in wasn't going to be the happy future that I originally envisioned it to be. I began my transition out of one career and into another, and grad school has been a major part of that transition for me. Basically, I felt that the best stepping stone I could take moving forward was to further my education.

Why did you come to OU?

Coming to OU for my Master's was one of the easiest decisions I have made in my life. I absolutely loved every minute of my time here during my undergraduate studies and I found myself wanting to be back on campus after I had graduated. The peaceful atmosphere, the beautiful campus, the people, the sports and school spirit, and all of the amazing opportunities and organizations... everything about Oakland always felt like home to me. There truly is something for everyone.

What is your favorite part about being a student here?

My favorite part about being a student here is the sense of community that I feel. Honestly, I just feel comfortable and happy as soon as I step foot onto campus. The faculty truly care about their student's success. As graduate students, the relationships between professors and students go beyond the classroom and extend into mentorships and friendships.

Do you have any advice for those applying?

Every program is different, so be sure to know what is expected of you from the program that you're interested in, and then make sure you knock out all of the requirements as early as possible. Some items might need some pre-planning so it is definitely not something you want to put off. Also, talk to the advisors on campus before making a final decision. Sometimes it helps to talk through your plans to better understand what exactly you want to do and what plan of study is best for your goals. Other than that, take it one day at a time and enjoy the ride! GO GRIZZLIES!