

Joe Schmidt

Statement of Purpose

My primary academic interest is in sociology with a specific interest in the criminology aspect of sociology. This is why I am interested in pursuing my Master in Criminal Justice at Loyola University Chicago. My goal is to find employment with the FBI, and I believe a strong background in Criminal Justice will help my chances. The flexibility of the M.A Criminal Justice program at Loyola University would provide myself with the ability to begin working after my undergraduate studies have been complete, and still continue to pursue my Masters at night.

My recent courses in sociology have provided me with the knowledge to initiate and conduct my own research. In addition to working with data that has already been provided for research, I can also design my own experiment and then collect and analyze my results on my own. My first original research project focused on the television show The Sopranos and how the modern mafia is depicted on the show. I conducted all aspects of this research, besides the process of randomly choosing what episodes to watch. As I mentioned before my specific area of interest is in criminology. There were two courses at the University of Iowa in this area. I took both Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency and enjoyed both classes very much. The exposure I had to the criminal justice system and some of the ways it operates were appealing to me. This is one of my primary reasons for wanting to continue my education, more specifically in criminal justice.

The ultimate professional goal that I want to achieve is to be an FBI field agent. After completing my undergraduate studies I plan to apply to the district office of the FBI in Chicago. However I am aware of the high level of competition to become a field