

Student Spotlight

Transfer student success stories.

Jessica Bautista, AAOT (2019) from Chemeketa and BA (2022) in Elementary Education from Pacific University

Q: *Tell us about your transfer pathway. What was challenging, and what was helpful?*

A: My transfer path wasn't easy. I am a first-generation student and have many family responsibilities. I started at Chemeketa and appreciated how my academic program was clearly linked to transfer. They kept reminding me that my end goal was university graduation, not just the two-year degree at Chemeketa. The other thing about Chemeketa is that I got to know the faculty. This really helped because as I was about to graduate, my mom got sick and passed away. I also got pregnant. The combination of responsibilities required me to step away from school. But I had such strong relationships with the Chemeketa department that I knew who to reach out to when I was ready to start school again. They helped me get the right classes to finish and transfer to Pacific University. My transfer was smooth and easy. My coursework in Education was directly relevant to my studies at Pacific, and I graduated in two years as a licensed teacher.

I felt really supported by both Chemeketa and Pacific throughout my academic journey, and my instructors always helped during the tough times and encouraged me on my path. My instructors Sara and Vania at Chemeketa were passionate about the skills they wanted to see in future teachers, and this left a big impact on me. And Pacific instructors were the same and were really close to the community college faculty. Both colleges made me feel welcome and created a solid bridge.

At Chemeketa I also discovered my value and pride in my heritage language of Spanish. I participated in the Oaxaca study abroad and studied and received my Oregon Seal of Biliteracy at Chemeketa, and I plan to use my language as a bilingual teacher. I also hope to get a master's degree in speech pathology.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Colop de Leon.