

A (Baby) Bump in the Road

Edith Erickson - June 29, 2014

The Plan

When I originally applied for the Master of Art in Educational Technology (MAET) program in the fall of 2012, I had several career goals. One goal was to make myself more marketable to the leaders in the field of educational technology. Additionally, I wished to be able to teach online classes, expanding my earning potential beyond what was possible in my current teaching position while not having to relocate. In hindsight, my goals have not changed much; in fact they may have intensified.

The Change in Plans

I started my first classes in the winter semester of 2013. I was off to a fantastic start, sailing right through my first two courses when the universe stepped in and my husband (who also started graduate school at the same time) and I found out that we were expecting our first child, a wonderful blessing as we had been trying for a baby for quite some time! Obviously though, this raised a lot of questions about whether to continue with the program and how to manage work, a baby, and grad school, but in the end, we decided to stick with it and just do the best that we could. I continued with my plan of taking two courses per semester, managing to work on papers and assignments up until the day our sweet Charlotte was born, and getting right back to work within a few days. Since then, I've maintained the pace and am proud of being able to reach the end of the program, having created an amazing little human in the process!

A More Meaningful Plan

Having Charlotte in the picture has been quite a change to our lifestyles, but it has only strengthened my initial goals and made them even more relevant and important. While I initially felt that having the MAET degree would benefit me more in the long run, it will actually be hugely beneficial right away. For one, I will be able to begin applying for online teaching positions right away, helping to improve the financial situation in my home. The other part of my goal, being marketable to the leaders in educational technology, will have to wait a little while. Taking this type of position would most likely require relocating, something that is not an option at the time; Charlotte's only grandparent lives just five minutes from our house, a luxury that we hope to enjoy for years to come. I eventually would like to work as an educational technology consultant or developer, but for now I am focused on being the best mother, wife, and teacher I can be. I am happy that I will have the qualifications needed in order to secure my dream job in the field of educational technology, especially if the perfect opportunity arises, but I am not quite ready to take that leap yet.

