

# Goals of the Past, Present, and Future

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Looking back to when I entered the Master of Arts in Educational Technology (MAET) program I had a few reasons as to why I was doing it, such as, wanting to get my master's degree before the credits I had already earned during my internship year expired and could no longer be used, and moving steps on the pay scale. Then, I thought about how a master's degree would benefit me as an educator. So I thought about what I was most interested in and technology was something I had been trying to implement more in my classroom instruction. Once I knew that I wanted to focus on educational technology, I thought about what I wanted to get out of my masters program. One goal I wanted to achieve was to implement at least one thing I had learned each semester into my current teaching practice. I knew that in order to do that, I would really have to focus on what I was learning in my courses.

My goals haven't really changed during my time in my master's program. While they are similar, one thing I think I have done is take a big idea and learned how to break that up into smaller, more detailed goals. For instance, my goal of implementing things from each course still stands true, however, now my more detailed focus consists of using specific pieces of my courses, such as my teaching portfolio, and creating something that allows me to focus on a specific aspect of my learning and then using that to build for the future.

Another goal I have, as I am finishing up my final semester of graduate school, has to do with my courses that I am presently taking. I want to use what I am learning at this time to really reflect on my learning in order to see where I want to go with my teaching while integrating the use of educational technology in my classroom. An additional goal I have is using my portfolio as a way of putting together and then building on my experiences, not just my college courses, but my actual teaching and classroom.

I think that my goals have become more detailed and focused because I have been pushed in my graduate courses to really dig deep to figure out what I want to do with the tools and materials I have been taught to use. When I entered the program, I really just wanted to get my degree, but now, I want to use what I have learned through my course work to better my teaching instruction and focus on how I will implement what I have learned. I think the way I view my goals have changed because I have changed. The woman I was when I started my master's degree is not the same woman I am now. I have changed the way I think about technology and I have gained more knowledge and skills in the field in order to better my own teaching.