

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to share a bit about my not-so-great experience at Fisk University. My name is Sharon Kaye Edwards, and for the longest time, **I put off going to college while supporting** my husband's 21-year army career. My desire to go to college was to study and get a degree that allowed me to help others. In 2019, I saw an article online and a flyer for the **new Fisk University Clarksville Extended Site** advertising the **Online Human Development Leadership Bachelor's degree**.

I reached out to **a recruiter** about that degree and was told that I would receive that degree in 2 years, with no core classes. Fisk University's Facebook Page confirmed the 2-year time length as well. **No time during the recruiting process** was it mentioned an **associate degree** was needed to be enrolled in this program.

I was 59 years old, and this was my **first time attending** college so this was all new to me. I enrolled in the online program under the impression that I was in a two-year Human Development Leadership Bachelor's degree program receiving my BS degree, which would be only **60 credit hours and not requiring any core classes**. The enrollment process felt rushed, and I found myself signing a lot of forms. Onboarding the forms was strictly via email/phone. Doing the enrollment process Fisk requested a high school transcript. It was sent along with my high school diploma, and they were uploaded to Fisk University.

I had been **at Fisk University for 4 months without an advisor for my major**, I had to request one. After the completion of **58 credits**, I met with my advisor to see my next step for graduation. I was approaching **my 60 credit hours**. The advisor for **the first time** informed me that the **Human Development Leadership BS Degree was a 120-hour degree**, and it was a requirement to have an associate degree prior to being enrolled in this program, that I would have to complete **an additional 62 hours** more to obtain that degree.

I felt **deceived, discouraged, devastated, and disappointed** when this happened. I left Fisk. It took me two years to find my next step of **starting over** at Austin Peay University. The gap between what the school promised and what the school delivered left me with **\$14,000 dollars** of debt and used up **half of the GI Bill benefits I had been granted**.

Accreditors need to make sure **colleges and universities** are **upfront and clear about what they offer**, from **recruitment to graduation**. We need more **oversight and accountability** to stop this kind of experience from happening to other students.

Thank you for your time.