



## **Ebony Durham, Alabama State University- c/o 2015, Criminal Justice with a Concentration in Juvenile Justice**



**Name :** Ebony Durham

**Your HBCU :** Alabama State University

**Graduation Year :** 2015

**Major :** Criminal Justice with a Concentration in Juvenile Justice

### **1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?\***

I'm from Sacramento, CA. My mother introduced me to schools when I was a senior in high school preparing to apply for college. She didn't go to an HBCU but she knew what the importance of an HBCU was so she encouraged me to apply to some. I was accepted to a few HBCUs but I chose Alabama State because my favorite cousin went there and she influenced me to go.



### **2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?\***

I chose a HBCU over a PWI because honestly, it was cheaper and I felt more comfortable going to a school with all black people.

### **3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?\***

All four/five of my years at Alabama State were different in its own way but in the end it was the greatest experience of my life! Freshmen year, I met a lot of people and friends that I am still friends with today. I honestly did horrible, grade wise my freshmen year but I had A LOT of fun. That's when I officially got introduced to the greek life and the HBCU life (BAMA STATE Life) which included like mixers, step shows, spring break in PCB, fried chicken Wednesday, The Rose, The 1911 house, BET College Tour, Labor Day Classic, Magic City Classic, etc. My sophomore year was just as fun but I started to get more serious about my studies. Through my sophomore and junior year I got in a relationship which took up most of my time being social. Regardless, I got involved in the criminal justice club, ASPIRE mentoring group, NABCJ and Student Media where I was the managing editor over the hornet year book. My senior year was also fun because I started visiting other schools like UA, Auburn, Tuskegee, UAB etc... but this year was also bittersweet. I was so stressed about graduating and applying for grad school while thinking about the fact that "wow, I'm really leaving this place" I basically developed a whole new life and I just up and felt. So, I was going through it my senior year but I successfully graduated in Fall 2015 with my BS in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Juvenile Justice.

### **4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?\***

I think a lot of my first time experiences at Alabama State are too inappropriate for this platform; But I will say, it was my first time really knowing and learning line dances and discovering Waffle House and Zaxbys.

**5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?\***

Dr. Spencer is the advisor in the Criminal Justice department and he was also my professor. Dr. Spencer has such a great spirit and a drive to help ALL of his students. I seen him talk to other students and he treats everyone the same and helped all of us in our desperate times of need. Without Dr. Spencer and his guidance and inspiration to continue my education, I would have probably spent another year or so at State and not be in grad school right now. Dr. Hoffman was my political science teacher, I had absolutely no interest in politics or history until I took her class. Mind you, this was a difficult class but she saw something in me where she kept pushing me and I kept wanting to succeed in the class. I hated and loved that about her but now I truly appreciate it because I now have a interest in politics and history. When I found out she had a illness, I developed a soft sport in my heart for her even though she was a tough teacher, she also helped me out in applying for grad school.

