

## UVSC SUCCESS!

Alisa Hammond



Alisa Hammond, from Payson, Utah will be graduating Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in behavioral science this April after eight years of taking classes at UVSC. Alisa, a non-traditional student, is the mother of six – five boys and one girl. With many things requiring her attention at home, Alisa decided to gradually work toward her degree, by taking one class per semester. This year, Alisa's dedication is finally paying off.

“I always knew I would go back to get my degree but I thought I would have to wait until after the kids were gone from home,” Alisa said. “Taking classes now is different than when I was younger and got my associate's degree from Ricks College. I have found an affinity for learning and because I could only take one class at a time, it was easy to focus on that subject

and get the most out of my education.”

After hearing a lecture from one of UVSC's behavioral science guest speakers, Alisa became very excited about sociological research and wanted to pursue her degree in that field.

By taking a variety of classes including online, at night or at times during the day, Alisa was able to fit an education into her schedule. She now has two children enrolled at UVSC and the younger children all have plans to attend the College.

“My husband and kids have been very encouraging. I wouldn't be graduating right now without their support,” Alisa said. “I am thankful UVSC offered classes that were available at times that worked for me.”

Alisa has particularly enjoyed doing research with fellow behavioral science students and having the opportunities to travel to conferences and present her research. Recently, she and other students presented at the Utah Conference of Undergraduate Research (UCUR) in Salt Lake City, and will also present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in San Rafael, Calif.

Alisa has future plans to pursue her master's degree and earn a Ph.D. behavioral science. But for now, she's taking a break for a few years.

“For those in my same situation, that would like to get their degree – it is possible if you just jump in and start. Even putting in a little effort, over time it goes a long way.”