

Madison Gremillion

My path to attending college hasn't been traditional. I come from an abusive background and had to struggle in my early adulthood to get to a place where attending college was a possibility. Despite this, I have set my sights on being in a position as a chief medical officer where I can use my experience to create systematic change.

My community service includes wetland clean-ups, making soup for the under-served, developing and implementing martial arts programs for at-risk youth, assisting in wildlife surveys for the forestry service, distributing care packages and public health information, and volunteering in hospice in caregiver relief. Moreover, I offer my graphic skills to design attractive sellable works to support functions and events at no cost. Volunteering and giving my talents and skills have built the foundation of my purpose to provide unconditional love, compassion, and support to all patients.

This belief in providing holistic care is the driving force behind my pursuit of medicine and research. My undergraduate honors research focuses on the quality of communication between healthcare professionals and dying patients, an issue that extends beyond end-of-life care. It's obvious how many people identify with my research as I've won the National Collegiate Honors Council Sloan Award, NHS research excellence award, and have been accepted to present at NCUR. I achieved great things while being a non-traditional student working on campus to support my family's needs and every day is a financial and emotional obstacle while maintaining a 4.0. My goal in attending an MD/DO-PhD program is to one day be the chief medical officer in order to be in a position to use my experiences as a medical practitioner and my research to implement evidence-based empathetic practice into the healthcare system.

I pay-it-forward in my day-to-day as an honors peer mentor, aiding my peers as a tutor, facilitating impactful conversations using my life experience, and more. As a TA, I found myself in a position to connect with younger high-achieving students where I used my perspective and experience to guide them in their daily struggles. I view mental and emotional well-being as equally important in medical practice and that doing so is a strong skill of mine that will be valuable in the professional field. This extends beyond the undergraduates; I've become sincere friends with the graduate students and faculty in the many departments I frequent, and appreciate that my age and experience allow me to develop closer friendships with them.

It is for all of these reasons that the morals of CAP align with my personal, academic, and professional goals. The people I interact with speak of the laughter and joy I bring to every environment I'm a part of. I strongly feel that my purpose in this life is to give compassion, unconditional acceptance, and love while using my work ethic and education to serve and support at-risk communities, which this scholarship would get me one step closer to. Thank you for considering me as a recipient.