



**Kayla Hill**  
**STEM Ambassador**  
**Chemistry Major and Criminal Justice**  
**Minor**

***Q: How did you select your college major or certification program?***

**A:** I decided to come to the University of Memphis because it was pretty close to home (I'm from Jackson, TN) and it also just felt right. I know that sounds cliché, but from the moment I stepped on campus for my first tour I could just tell that this was the place I would call home. I haven't regretted it since, and every day I fall more in love with the university and its people.

***Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?***

**A:** I actually am really inspired by the characters Abby Scuito from *NCIS* and Juliet O'Hara from *Psych*. I love how they are both strong, independent woman in criminal justice careers, but still remain kind and compassionate.

***Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?***

**A:** Forensic Science. It probably wouldn't prepare me any more than I was, but I am just jealous of all the high schoolers taking classes like that when I still don't get to take that kind of class until about my senior year of college.

***Q: What is your favorite aspect of your major?***

**A:** I love being in the lab. I'm a very hands on learner, so nothing really clicks until I actually perform something in the lab.

***Q: How do you/your major make a positive impact on society/our community?***

**A:** I personally love volunteering as much as I can. At the moment I volunteer about once a week at the Shelby County Humane Society walking dogs. I also do a lot of service work through the University too. I help with the St. Jude Up 'til Dawn fundraising every year, and my sorority's philanthropy is the Ronald McDonald House. I try my best to do just about anything I can to help those three organizations.



# STEM SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR: Kayla Hill



**Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your college career?**

**A:** In the Summer of 2016, I served as an Orientation Guide for the University. I got to meet just about all of the 2,000 incoming freshman, and teach them about the university that I hold so near and dear to my heart.

**Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your major?**

**A:** It's just a really exciting field. I get to go to class and learn about the interworking's of the world. It's basically like watching How it's Made in real life.



**Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your major?**

**A:** Be ready for the challenge. Don't come in thinking any major is going to be easy, but especially not a science like chemistry. There are going to be times when it gets so hard, and you just can't even begin to comprehend the material. All you have to do is hang on tight because you will have that "ah ha" moment you just have to be patient with yourself.