



David LeVine
Mr. STEM Ambassador
Biomedical Engineering, Physics, Math, Biology,
Germanistics

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

A: Good Question. After being incredibly indecisive about what I wanted to do with my life (grad school, med school, job, etc.) I decided to go into biomedical engineering (BME) because my advisor assured me I could find a home there, or at least pick a field more specific to my interests. Several years later I ended up sticking with it because I love how biomed blends everything I've learned thus far. As I continued to take courses that interested me in the different departments, I realized that I had picked up enough credits to graduate with all these different degrees.

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

A: I have always been interested in science because of my dad while I was growing up. He would turn most everything we did into a mini math lesson. I've known since then that I wanted to be some sort of inventor or scientist. It wasn't until I came to the U of M, that I was able to develop that dream into a reality.

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: Haha, if I could go back to high school, then I would be more forceful with my advisors about letting me take AP Chemistry and Biology. Due to scheduling conflicts two years in a row, I was unable to take a few AP courses. Although, to be honest, when I found myself at the U of M, I said to myself I should retake all the STEM classes I received AP credit for to really solidify that knowledge. I am glad I took the latter route.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your major?

A: I love engineering because you apply all the empirical information you gather from your classes and bring innovation to light. There are lots of clever people in engineering, and if it wasn't for them we wouldn't have some of the instrumentation we use in the medical field today. Nor would we have as effective prosthetics as we do, nor significant advances in tissue and cell engineering that are leading to significant changes in the medical device business.



STEM SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR: David LeVine



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

A: There are several biomedical companies in Memphis (Wright Medical, Medtronic, etc.) and they do their best to provide strong, long-lasting implants and medical devices for people in Memphis and across the US. That's just one example. With a biomedical engineering degree, one could also go work with St. Jude as a medical researcher. Or one could take a route like mine and spread the word about the good work STEM majors and professionals are doing, while also encouraging people to get invested in the field(s) themselves.

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

A: One of the coolest things I have done with biomedical engineering has been going to Germany for a whole year and studying relatively the same subjects I do at Memphis, but in German! Other than that, I would say doing undergraduate research with two departments across campus has been fulfilling. I am incredibly excited to channel my inner Bill Nye and get kids excited about STEM with my position as a STEM Ambassador! This new niche is definitely a worthwhile and fantastic new chapter in my life. I hope I can get a few students to be as passionate about science as I am.

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

A: The coffee. I'm kidding! It's definitely the applied math. Joking! Maybe, I do not know. There are just so many aspects of my major that I enjoy and make me happy to learn something new every day.

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

A: Be wary of engineering. It requires a lot of time, with a few too many sleepless nights. Study hard and make friends within your department, because they'll be there with you for the long haul. But remember to go out and have fun with friends every occasionally. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

