STEM Student Ambassador Spotlight

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Q How did you select your college major?

A I decided that I wanted to major in a STEM field, particularly engineering my sophomore year of high school. I always seemed to excel in math and science in school; those were the subjects that I was most drawn to and found the most interesting. However, I was conflicted about which field I should go into, math or science, and found that for me, engineering was the happy medium. It uses aspects from both math and science that I enjoy and has practical applications that I feel can make a tangible and positive difference in the world.

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

A I was majorly influenced to go into biomedical engineering because of my mother. She is a nurse and has been in the medical field since before I was born. She often comes home sharing stories of her work day and the new surgeries or medical techniques she got to see that day that were helping to save people's lives that may have otherwise died. This influenced me because I could see the positive impact that medical professionals have on society yet I discovered early on in my life that I was too squeamish to become a doctor or nurse. So biomedical engineering combined my knowledge of math and science with my interest of the medical field.

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 If I could go back, I would have taken anatomy and physiology my senior year to better prepare me for my general biology courses and anatomy lab.

Q What is your favorite aspect of your major?

A The thing I most enjoy about my major is how diverse the courses are and how it combines aspects from multiple engineering disciplines. To earn a biomedical engineering degree I will take classes not only in biology, math, and physics, but also classes in electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering. I am learning about general biology and human anatomy, but I also am learning about coding, statics, and circuits.

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

A Through biomedical engineering, I can improve the quality of life of others and help them live healthier. This can be accomplished by working at a hospital- assisting in managing patient care, in a lab- developing new medicines or conducting research, or a medical development company- creating new equipment or prosthetics.

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

A Something that I find interesting and enjoy immensely each semester is my labs in physics, chemistry, and biology. I am fascinated by being able to see practical examples of concepts that we learn in class.

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

A One thing that makes me excited to be in my major is that one day I'll have a degree in a field that I enjoy and through which, I believe I can actually help people live an improved life.

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

A My advice would be to take your science in math courses in high school seriously. Whether it feels like it is important or not, those classes really are the foundation for all of your college courses. I would also suggest taking as many upper division biology and anatomy courses as are offered at your school.