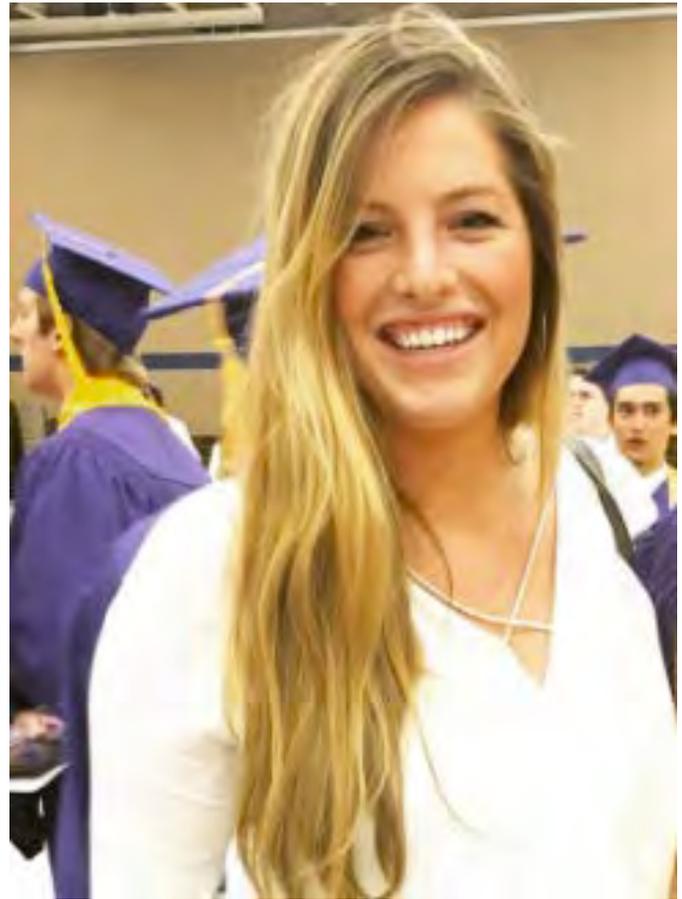


Q: How did you select your college major or certification program?

A: My first major in college was actually Animal Science, because I knew I was interested in biology and thought that I may want to study veterinary medicine. However, I soon realized that this path was not for me, and started looking into other ways to develop my interest in biology. After talking to counselors and taking more classes, I found that my interest in biology and my math skills were well suited for Biomedical Engineering. I finally changed my major after my sophomore year, and have loved it ever since!

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

A: In order to choose a major I felt really suited my interests, I had to do a lot of self-reflection while utilizing a trial and error process. Because I was unfamiliar with engineering as an option when I was entering college, I chose a couple different majors I thought I might enjoy, but after taking classes specific to that field, I found they were not right for me. Any university will provide you with so many resources to help you figure out what you want to do; once I started using them, it became much easier to evaluate my options.



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: I took Physics my freshman year of high school, and looking back it would have been much more beneficial for me to take it closer to when I would be graduating. Also, all engineering fields require calculus classes, so it would have also been helpful to take some sort of calculus class before college.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your major?

A: I love the versatility that accompanies biomedical engineering. Biomedical engineering requires lots of biology classes, as well as classes from other engineering fields, like civil, mechanical, and electrical. Because of these differing requirements, I feel like I have learned so many things I would have never known if I had not decided to go into engineering. In a similar sense, there is so much research associated with biomedical engineering, so even seasoned professionals can continue to learn and grow throughout their careers!



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

A: The entire basis of biomedical engineering is coming up with innovative ways to improve healthcare and the overall quality of human life, so it is easy to see how any application of this major can make a positive impact on society. Our Memphis community specifically has been tremendously impacted by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, which employs many biomedical engineers to help their patients and research efforts.

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

A: In one of my first engineering classes, we were put on teams and tasked with using engineering software to design a functional playground that meets all of the city’s codes and standards. My group had the winning design, which meant that our playground was actually built for an elementary school that was in need. It was an amazing way to get involved in the community, and it also made learning the software so much more fun!

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

A: While many of the classes can be incredibly challenging, I love getting up each day ready to work hard and prove myself. There are also so many brilliant faculty members and students in STEM majors, so it is really inspiring to talk to them and learn about their work and ideas.

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

A: If you are passionate about something, then don’t let anything hold you back from pursuing it! But, if you have many passions, or aren’t 100% positive about which direction to go (like me), then don’t be afraid to take your time figuring out exactly who/what you want to be.

