

As graduation is quickly approaching, I've done a lot of reflection on how my undergraduate program has shaped my future education and career goals. I'm fortunate that my program has a very diverse curriculum, offering me the opportunity to discover many different interests in the health education field. In addition to classroom education, I have been able to explore my future career interests through volunteer positions, jobs, clubs, and experiences. It is through one of these organizations, Eta Sigma Gamma, that I am now involved in many volunteering opportunities in the community focused on health education. In addition, under the guidance of Professor LaPlant in the Political Science Department at The University of Wisconsin La Crosse, I will be presenting a research paper on attitudes towards emergency contraception that I developed over the course of the year at a Political Science Conference in the Spring. After graduation in the Spring of 2024, I would like to obtain a Master of Public Health that has an emphasis in either women's health or global health, as these two topics are what I have become most passionate about in my current program.

Upon obtaining my master's, there are two areas in the health education field that I would be interested in pursuing. I would like to work with state legislators to help create policy change when it comes to reproductive healthcare, to ensure programs such as WIC continue to be fully funded by the federal budget. I would also be interested in working with an international aid relief organization, such as AmeriCorps, to help with health education in underdeveloped countries.

I've been responsible for managing my finances to obtain both my undergraduate degree and master's. I have worked a part time job throughout my college education to pay for my tuition and college expenses that were not covered under my FAFSA loans. The Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship would greatly help with my financial needs for next semester, allowing me to continue to save for future education.