

Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship Essay

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Since I can remember I knew I wanted to be involved in helping improve the lives of others and use this passion that I have to make a difference in the world. As I went through highschool I had my eyes set on being involved in the medical field, always not extremely confident in what that would be or where I would end up but I knew somehow I would get there. As I pursued a further education in college I went through a rough patch trying to decide what exactly it was I wanted to do. I went into college with a Biology major and I struggled to keep up with my classes as I don't think it quite sparked my interest as much as I thought it would. I went back and forth between majors, ultimately ending up deciding to switch my major during the beginning of my junior year to a Public Health. Since switching my major to public health, I've realized it is one of the best decisions I have made. Not only am I intrigued by what I am learning now but I am passionate about what I am studying and making the world we live in a better, safer, and healthier place for everyone. I have been able to recognize this passion and plan on pursuing a Masters in Public Health, studying for the MCAT, and striving for a Medical Degree. I am specifically passionate about women's health and would love a career where I can travel the world and help women in need. I haven't quite landed my finger on what that would be yet but as I always say, good things come with time, and I know eventually I will be able to do something I love. My biggest accomplishment right now and something that I am extremely excited about would be landing a spot for an internship where I get to study abroad in Uganda for 6 weeks and research health initiatives taken for Malaria prevention.

While all of this is exciting and fueling my passion, these things come at a cost. Currently

I am taking loans from the government to help cover my undergraduate degree and working hard to save money for the Uganda trip. While my parents are financially stable, it is up to me to pay for all of my school. This includes my undergrad, graduate school, medical school, and my trip. I am paying for these things through scholarships, working hard at my education and having a job while doing so. I want to continue my education because I know that not only can my passion get me where I want but increasing my intelligence will be able to get me further and give me the ability to help even more people. Education is an expensive thing in our time and I will do everything I can to continue what I have started and be the best I possibly can.

While I am passionate about my education I am also passionate about my leadership and being an outlet to others. I currently serve as President to my sorority of 94 members, Chi Omega at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. I have got to help so many girls figure out their college paths and even life paths in general. My favorite part about this position has been getting to be a helping hand to every member and getting to create close knit bonds where I know they believe in me and making our chapter stronger than ever. While being a part of this position I have learned so much about myself and the type of leader I want to be. I've gained experience through going to national conventions, planning philanthropic events, and leading my executive board through both the good and bad times. Outside of Chi Omega I take pride in being the Volunteer Coordinator for the American Medical Student Association at UNCW and being an active member in many other clubs including GIVE and Medical Student Social Outreach. I also enjoy participating in events and being an advocate for UNCW CARE, a resource for students, faculty, and staff who are recovering from sexual assault and relationship violence.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application and offering such an incredible opportunity to students who are dedicated to making a difference in our world. This scholarship will allow me to continue my studies in Public Health and make a lasting impact in healthcare and the lives of others. I am eager to apply everything I learn to my community and make meaningful contributions to my field while honoring The Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education.