



ABIGAIL ORMOND

CLASS OF 2022

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Kinston, NC

Undergraduate Major: Speech and Hearing Sciences & Psychology double major

Career Aspirations: Audiologist

Professional School: East Carolina's Clinical Doctorate of Audiology (AuD)

What's been your favorite part of the journey to apply to professional schools?

One of my favorite parts about applying to various graduate schools has been the opportunity to learn more about my field. It was so interesting to see each programs passion and what they were looking for in their students! Once I learned more about other programs, I could be confident in my choice and sure that ECU was the best fit for me!

How did you prepare yourself for the process of applying to schools?

The first thing I did when starting to think about applying to schools was research! I looked at all the programs in the country and made a spreadsheet comparing aspects such as location, cost, and class size. This helped me narrow down my choices and to make an educated decision about which schools to apply to. I also made a checklist of each applications requirements! The best thing you can do is stay organized and plan ahead early!

Looking back, what advice would you give to students who are interested in professional schools? What do you wish you had known earlier?

Make sure you are planning ahead! There are so many parts to each application and it is so important to make sure you don't leave anything out! One thing I wish I had known before starting the application process is that there is no such thing as a "perfect" applicant. Everyone wishes they were stronger in at least one part of their application but the purpose of the application is to show the admissions team a holistic view of you! Be confident and proud of yourself and what you have accomplished!

What services or organizations would you recommend pre-professional students utilize?

Pre-Professional Students should stay in contact with the PPAC throughout their time at ECU. Graduate schools are constantly changing their requirements and application expectations. The advisors in this center can help keep you up to date! I also recommend using the writing center to review any essays you may write for classes or your applications. They do more than just proofread! Career services is also a great resource for resume help!

What were some of the challenges you came across when preparing to apply to schools (what was tougher than you expected)?

One of my biggest challenges was prepping for the GRE. I decided to take the GRE at the end of summer so I used my entire summer to prep on my own and also through a Kaplan prep course. The PPAC partners with Kaplan and Princeton review to provide discounted (or free!) prep courses and practice tests to ECU students for many of the tests required for various graduate programs. While the course was extremely helpful, I had to relearn a lot of the math material (I haven't taken a math class since 11th grade) and was burnt out by the end of the summer. In the end, all the hard work paid off but make sure you pace yourself!

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

As an undergraduate student I was a member of The National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society, The Student Academy of Audiology, The Club Tennis Team, and the G.O.L.D Leaders program. I was also the president of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society for the 2021-2022 school year!

What type of shadowing did you do?

My shadowing experience was limited due to COVID. However, I was still able to have great shadowing experiences in a private audiology practice in Raleigh and an ENT office in Kinston. I was also able to do some shadowing through ECU's on-campus speech and hearing clinic!

What type of volunteering did you do?

When the COVID-19 vaccine first starting being available to the public in spring of 2021, I felt driven to help slow the spread and keep my community safe. That spring, I spent 25 hours volunteering at the largest vaccine distribution site in eastern North Carolina at the Greenville convention center. I have also volunteered at various other events throughout my time at ECU for some of my clubs and the Honors College. I have participated in events such as campus cleanups, food drives, book drives, and fundraisers.

Did you do research? If so what was the topic?

During my time as an undergrad, I was an undergraduate researcher in the Speech Perception Lab through the CSDI department. While in the lab, I was able to earn class credit, valuable experience with audiological clinical skills, and become the primary author on a research poster. I traveled to St. Louis, MO this spring to present my poster at the American Academy of Audiology Conference! I will also be completing my Honors Thesis with this same research project and (hopefully) be a published author in the next few years!

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

My most rewarding experiences during my time as an undergraduate student have been through the Honors College, the PPAC and a mentorship program in the CSDI department. All of these programs have provided me with the opportunity to share my experiences and love for ECU to prospective students. I love talking about my school and encouraging everyone to see how much ECU offers!

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

Make sure you get involved on campus! Being involved is the best way to find a community of support and you will find out about so many opportunities you wouldn't otherwise. Also remember to be proud of yourself! You have already accomplished so much and just because there is more school to go doesn't mean that your accomplishments in undergrad mean less.