

ALEXANDER TURNER

CLASS OF 2019



STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Houston, TX

Undergraduate Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology

Career Aspiration: Neuro or Orthopedic Surgeon

Professional School: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School (UTSW)

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

The opportunity to look back at all the challenges I have overcome and the experiences I have gained.

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

I worked in Dr. Johanna Hannan's Lab, one of the most impactful people I have met while at ECU and an amazing mentor who has done nothing but support me since I joined her lab. I worked on the Impact of Prostatic Radiation Therapy on Bladder Contractility and Innervation. A manuscript with me as a 1st author, has been submitted for publication.

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 that you diversify yourself and know that grades aren't everything. However, the higher your MCAT score, the easier it will be to be accepted to medical schools.

What type of shadowing did you do?

At Vidant Trauma: Shadowed Surgical Critical Care Surgeon Dr. Newel and associates.
At Vidant Neurology: Shadowed Neurosurgeon Dr. Kanaan

What type of volunteering did you do?

200+ hours of community service and volunteering at multiple events held throughout Greenville by either businesses or ECU Athletics. Most of my volunteering was done working with kids.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

Helping to set up the afterschool program called the Gentleman's Club at Elmhurst elementary while I was an undergrad.

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

I made sure to ask my advisors and mentors a lot of questions as an undergrad. I also reached out to current med students and upperclassmen for advice about the process.

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

ECU Football, Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Elmhurst Elementary Gentleman's Club, Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, Neuroscience Student Association, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, ECU Undergrad Research

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

Volunteer groups, leadership roles, community activism groups, and even just clubs that you enjoy. It's about finding something your passionate about and making the most of it. Schools love to hear about what makes you unique.

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

Having 2 months to study and prepare for the MCAT.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

Be unique, and true to yourself, show these professional schools that you would be a great addition to their school. It's completely fine to be nervous and anxious throughout the whole process, everyone else is too. This is the next step towards your dream career, and you should try to enjoy it as much as you can.