



# GRACE LEE

CLASS OF 2020

## STUDENT PROFILE

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**Hometown:** Mount Pleasant, NC

**Undergraduate Major:** Health Services Management

**Career Aspiration:** Occupational Therapist

**Professional School:** ECU Occupational Therapy

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

My favorite part of the journey has been meeting peers who are on a journey toward an occupation in health care and those who share similar passions. Once I become an occupational therapist, I hope to work either with children with special needs or with cancer patients. I have met many people with the same or similar passions, and we have been able to work together for a common purpose, no matter what occupation they have or what occupation they hope to have in the future.

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

The most challenging part of preparing to apply to schools was organizing my resume. I recommend compiling everything for your resume and bringing it to Career Services to get another set of eyes on it and some pointers on how to stand out.

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

I definitely planned ahead. Since freshman year, I have communicated with my advisor, Ms. Elizabeth Locklear to make sure that I was taking the correct pre-requisite classes and managing my time to stay on top of deadlines. Ms. Locklear helped me map out my entire college class schedule to complete the classes I needed and specific to the programs for which I wanted to apply. Keeping a planner and schedule of deadlines helped immensely!

### **What type of shadowing did you do?**

I shadowed in Adult Inpatient Rehabilitation and Outpatient Pediatrics.

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

I highly recommend staying in contact with your pre-professional advisor at the PPAC. The advisors have your best interests in mind and readily assist you so that you can achieve your goals. I also recommend getting involved in any student organizations. Whether they are in the realm of your future occupation or just for fun, the friendships and connections are important and can give you many outlets to do what you are passionate about.

### **What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?**

I was involved in the Pre-Occupational Therapy Student Association as a member, Secretary, and President; in the Dance-Ability Club as a member and choreographer; in Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society; and in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

### **What type of volunteering did you do?**

I volunteered at a hospital with occupational, physical, and speech therapists; at a therapeutic horse ranch as a camp counselor with children with special needs; in Puerto Rico during the Residential Scholar trip; and at many different Greenville and ECU events through the Pre-Occupational Therapy Student Association and the Dance-Ability Club.

Volunteering, whether done through an organization or not, is a wonderful way to assist and show your passion for your community and get further experience in your future occupation or with those that you want to work with.

### **Did you do research? If so, what was the topic?**

I completed research with Dr. Lynne Murphy and Dr. Heather Panczykowski of the ECU Occupational Therapy Department. My project explored the association of interactive vaulting with the social and behavioral skills of children with special needs. Through interactive vaulting, participants learn to balance in different positions on a moving horse. Interactive vaulting introduces team building activities, social interaction, and nurtures independence for children with special needs. Our research project was one of the first projects on the affect of interactive vaulting. We hope that through our research we can encourage interventions and activities that can impact children with special needs in positive ways.

### **What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?**

The most rewarding experience at ECU was being a part of the volunteerism at ECU and in the Greenville community. I am so thankful that ECU values and encourages service in our community.

### **Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?**

I am so thankful for the friends, family, professors, and countless others that encouraged me and helped me through my undergraduate journey and are now helping me through my graduate journey. Never forget where you came from and remember to always give back to the community and people that helped grow your passions.