



HANNAH CLEMENTS

CLASS OF 2020

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Red Oak, NC

Undergraduate Major: Speech & Hearing Sciences

Career Aspiration: Speech Language Pathologist

Professional School: Francis Marion University

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

My favorite part of the journey to apply to professional schools would be looking for schools and exploring the cities they are in. This is your last hoorah before it's time to go into the work force, explore different options outside of your comfort zone and go on a new adventure.

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

One of the challenges I faced when preparing to apply to schools would be trying to time manage and taking into consideration how long it takes to send things like your GRE score or transcripts. If you went to multiple colleges, a lot of schools require that you send those transcripts too, so make sure you are being proactive when turning in things for your application, especially if you are applying to more than one school.

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

From the very beginning when I changed my major from Elementary Education to Speech and Hearing Sciences, I knew that being a Speech Language Pathologist required going to get my masters degree, so I would say that I have been preparing from the very beginning. I did that by being involved in clubs, volunteering in research labs through my department, and just making sure to do my very best in every class I took.

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

One piece of advice I would give students who are interested in professional school is to make sure to keep an open mind. If ECU has the graduate program you're wishing for definitely apply, but if you don't get in, it's okay. It maybe that you have reached your full potential at ECU and time for new adventure.

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

I recommend joining a club that specifically has to do with your major or the professional degree you are thinking about. I was a part of NSSHLA, National Student Speech Hearing Language Association, a club specifically for my major. It consisted of both undergrad and graduate students and a lot of the applying process and things like that I learned from the master's students in the club. Not only is it a great way to meet friends, but also to learn more about the professional degree your seeking and ask questions about the applying process..

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

I was a part of a Christian sorority on campus called Sigma Alpha Omega. I was a part of the Student Pirate Club, and NSSHLA, National Student Speech Hearing Language Association.

What type of shadowing did you do?

For my 25 required ASHA hours, I shadowed an SLP in a skilled nursing facility and one in the school system.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I did a lot of volunteering through my sorority. I participated in Backpack Buddies where we package food for children to have during the weekends when they are not in school so they have something to eat. I have volunteered at the Food Bank in Greenville, the Humane Society of ENC, and many other places in the Greenville/Winterville area. Through NSSHLA, I had the opportunity to volunteer through Duke Hears, which is an organization that helps educate parents who have deaf or hard of hearing children. I volunteered to lead a group of children around the Museum of Math and Science in Durham, NC while their parents were participating in seminars and workshops.

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

I did participate in research. I volunteered in Dr. Heather Harris Wright's Aging Adult Language Disorders lab. My research looked at discourse characteristics in individuals who had Parkinson's disease.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

My most rewarding experience at ECU was the personal growth I experienced. I learned so much about myself while in Greenville and for that I will forever be grateful.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

College can be a challenge, trying to juggle school, social life, while also trying to maintain everything else in your life can be overwhelming too, but it's important to remember that the dishes can wait and your time in college is so short so make sure to soak it all up and enjoy every moment.