

# HATCHER PRICE

CLASS OF 2021



## STUDENT PROFILE

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**Hometown: Windsor, NC**

**Undergraduate Major: Public Health**

**Career Aspirations: General Dentist**

**Professional School: East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine**

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

Staying extremely organized from the beginning will make your life so much easier when the application cycle begins. I kept an Excel sheet of all my volunteering, shadowing, and extracurricular hours with descriptions and contact information for each organization. This way when it was time to enter the information on the application, it was all easily accessible.

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

Don't be afraid to start the journey and take the next step! There is no better time than the present to start chasing your dreams. If you continuously put off shadowing, volunteering, or test prep, you'll feel behind when the application cycle begins. Start early and be confident in yourself.

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

The Pre-Professional Advising Center and the Pirate Academic Success Center are great resources for applying to professional schools. The PPAC does an amazing job of walking you through the process and specifics of applying. Plus, they have the most amazing staff. Also, the PASC is great if you need that extra resource to get through a tough semester.

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

Maintaining a full schedule of volunteering, shadowing, extracurriculars, coursework, and social life all at once during the semester could become a lot to handle. All of these things are essential to the growth and experience needed through the journey. While possible, it's important to understand it won't be easy, but the results will outweigh the struggles by far.

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

In undergrad, I was fortunate to be a member of ECU Ambassadors, The ECU Pre-Dental Honors Society, and The ECU Smile Squad Honors Society.

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

Self-growth and reflection were huge parts of this journey for me. Going through the many steps and procedures can be intimidating. Stepping out of my comfort zone to network and engage in pre-professional activities was crucial to developing the self-confidence/ skills needed to navigate the pre-professional world.

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

I shadowed at a pediatric dental office here in Greenville, as well as a general dentist's office in my hometown.

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

I volunteered through organizations I was a part of as an undergraduate student, as well as on my own throughout Greenville and in my hometown. I spent the most time volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina where I assisted with fundraising and general house maintenance.

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

I was not involved with research during my time at ECU.

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

It would be difficult to choose the most rewarding experience during my time here at ECU. I would say that the friendships and colleagues that were made through the process have been the most worthwhile.

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

Enjoy the journey, respect the process, and don't compare yourself to others. Use every resource available, even when you think you may not need it. Attend every meeting, give every task one hundred percent, and never doubt your abilities.