



# LAURA N. BAUZA-DAVILA

CLASS OF 2020

## STUDENT PROFILE

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**Hometown:** Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Moved to Greenville, NC when I was seven years old.

**Undergraduate Major:** Public Health Major; concentration in Pre-Health Professions

**Career Aspiration:** Dentist

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

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

Truly getting to know myself. You do a lot of self-reflection and internalizing in this process. However, my favorite part about the application cycle were the interviews. I felt like the faculty/staff/students really got to know me as a person and WHY I was so passionate about dentistry.

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

STUDYING FOR THE DAT! I had a negative attitude about taking the test long before I even started studying for it. This made the studying process a lot harder than it needed to be. As a result, it reflected on my score and required me to re-take it.

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

STAYING ORGANIZED! I had an ongoing excel and word document for every shadowing/volunteer event I attended. Not only would I log the hours, but I would also write down a couple of sentences on what I did that day and what I learned. These documents came in very handy when I was filling out the "experiences" section in my application. I also had a folder for everything related to the different dental schools. This really helped me narrow down which dental schools I was going to apply to. Dental school applications are extremely expensive and it is super important to apply to the schools that align with YOU and vice-versa (mission, GPA, DAT scores, experience, demographic, location, etc.)

### Where are you going to school?

East Carolina School of Dental Medicine

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

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED- A Pre-Professional Honors Society), Pre-Dental Honors Society, Undergraduate Dental Student Association (USNDA)

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

Pre-Professional Advising Center, Career Center, Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED- A Pre-Professional Honors Society), Pre-Dental Honors Society, Undergraduate Dental Student Association (USNDA)

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

SHADOW, SHADOW, SHADOW! As much as you can. I shadowed every time I had the chance. I even spent my entire Junior year spring break shadowing from 7am-6pm (and sometimes later), Monday through Friday. Not only will shadowing help out your resume, but you will learn SO MUCH dentistry during the process.

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

I shadowed both general dentists and specialists in different dental settings (urban, rural, hospital dentistry, etc.)

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

MOM clinics, Bernstein "Mini MOM" clinics, Give Kids a Smile Day at Eastern Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry

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

I did research in the Biology and Chemistry departments. The research I helped with in biology was in the Summers Lab, where I got to work with frogs and help a Master student collect data. And for the Chemistry research, I helped out a Master student collect data in the Spuches Lab.

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

Getting into my #1 dental school choice after years of hard work.

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

KEEP GOING, KEEP WORKING HARD, AND STAY ORGANIZED. Your hard work, achievements, and even your struggles do not go unnoticed. ~ There is a light at the end of the tunnel! ~