

LUKE FOGARTY

CLASS OF 2022

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Greenville, NC

Undergraduate Major: Business Management with a minor in composite natural science

Career Aspirations: Private practice general dentist providing care to underserved and diverse patient populations

Professional School: East Carolina School of Dental Medicine

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

Applying to dental school was an insightful experience as ample time was spent reflecting and drawing from my experiences that molded into my college experience. I became increasingly aware of the many unique opportunities that impacted my career outlook.

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

A major challenge I came across was finding accurate statistical information on the dental schools I was applying to as there are many websites providing different financial and clinical figures. This showed me that getting in contact with each school was the best way to get accurate knowledge on the program they offered.

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

I spent a lot of time reaching out to former tutors and peers of mine that had just recently been through the application cycle. This allowed me to take a holistic approach in selecting what schools I wanted to apply to and answer pressing questions about the entire process.

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

The earlier you start your application, the better. I was very on top of my AADSAS application thanks to the PPAC and the advice they gave in regard to the timeline of the dental school application cycle. I found that constantly checking in with the PPAC to make sure your transcript or your extracurriculars are being represented clearly is imperative.

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

Pre-professional students can get the most accurate and recent information from recent graduates. The PPAC was great at recommending current dental students I could reach out to, and I found this to be insightful towards learning information one just cannot find online.

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

As an undergraduate, I was involved in the Pre-Dental Honors Society, Beta Gamma Sigma (Business Honors Society), Musical Empowerment, EC Scholars Roundtable, People Helping the Aging Community Thrive, and ECU Club Ultimate Frisbee.

What type of shadowing did you do?

I based my shadowing out of my mentor's dentist office. This allowed me to have extensive opportunities to shadow my mentor, but also build connections with dentists of various specialties. Having a "home base" to shadow at, allowed me to utilize those offices connections to shadow every dental specialty all over Eastern North Carolina.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I spent time volunteering at Missions of Mercy Clinics, the Pirate Academic Success Center, through the EC Scholars program, with Musical Empowerment, and numerous dental volunteering opportunities.

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

I am on Dr. McCarlie's research team at the ECU SODM where we are finding a significant correlation between a caregiver's oral health literacy and their child's oral health status. We are doing this through a systematic literary review and drawing data from over 4,500 research articles written all over the world. The hope for our eventually published research is that our statistical confirmation can empower pre-natal interventions to ensure parents are aware of the vital importance behind their child's oral health.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

My most rewarding experience during my time at ECU was my study abroad that was funded by the ECU Honors College. I not only gained new perspectives about the world but enhanced my own perspective of how I can better affect those around me as a future private practice dentist. Learning to show empathy for others and view perspectives from an alternate direction is an invaluable skill that was drastically enhanced through my study abroad.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

The best advice I can give is to truly enjoy your application status. Yes, it will be tedious and can at times seem never ending, but you will learn so much about yourself and what has formed your work ethic the most throughout. This process of becoming more self-aware will be critical to success for interviews following the application cycle. Best of luck to all applying in this upcoming cycle!