



MONICA EUGENIO

CLASS OF 2021

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Sneads Ferry, NC

Undergraduate Major: Biology (with concentration in Cell/Molecular Biology) and a minor in Forensic Science

Career Aspirations: General Dentist

Professional School: Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health

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

My favorite would probably be meeting fellow pre-dental students and dental students who inspired and helped me overcome struggles I encountered in this journey.

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

For me, the whole application process was challenging because I was the first in my family to apply to dental school. I did not have an idea on where to start, but the Pre-professional Advising Center really saved me! They had everything from dental school timeline, personal statement workshops, mock interviews, just everything!

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

I shadowed as much as possible, studied hard to maintain a competitive GPA, connected with mentors, professors, advisors, and the pre-professional advising center, took leaderships roles, volunteered a lot, and joined student organizations at ECU.

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

Do not procrastinate when it comes to writing your personal statement! Looking back, I would have written my PS earlier, so I had the time to revise it over and over.

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

Pre-professional Advising Center, USNDA, PDHS

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

Undergraduate Student National Dental Association (ECU USNDA), Pre-Dental Honor Society (PDHS), Students for Equitable Health Outcomes (SEHO)

What type of shadowing did you do?

Majority of my shadowing hours were from my local general dentist in Wilmington, NC, Dr. Chapman, who is also my mentor, and I also shadowed Dr. Lovick at Eastern Pines Dental in Greenville, NC. Lastly, I did virtual shadowing when the pandemic hit. I suggest looking up “Dental Shadowers” and “Smile Shadowers” on Instagram to check if they have any shadowing sessions.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I mostly volunteered at the food bank, both Wilmington and Greenville locations, and also at the Vidant Medical Center. Other volunteer events I joined in were Red Cross Blood Drives, beach clean-ups, and NC Science Olympiad.

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

I did not participate in any research.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

I think the most rewarding experience is graduating with honors and getting into dental school after years of hard work.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

Do not procrastinate: write your Personal Statement, connect with your professors, maintain a competitive GPA, and study hard for the DAT. Be confident and don't be afraid to reach out for help to current dental students or even fellow pre-dental students!