



RAYMOND TUNOA-SCANLAN

CLASS OF 2022

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Hope Mills, NC

Undergraduate Major: BS Public Health (Community Health) & BA Biology

Career Aspirations: General Dentist

Professional School: Meharry Medical College

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

Meeting with Ms. McAllister from PPAC was crucial to my preparation, she was such a blessing to my journey. I attended a few pre-dental programs that helped expose me to parts of the application process such as ECU Impressions Day, UNC Impressions Day, and the UNC MED summer program. There I was able to participate in mock interviews, obtain DAT prep, and get connected with great people who are willing to answer questions.

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

Make sure you know your 'why'. That is honestly the most important thing. The reason you choose to go down this path has to align with the reason you get out of bed every morning. Longsuffering and patience is rewarded on this journey and endurance is a must. As for the future healthcare professionals, focus on developing your heart's capacity to love others because that is going to be required of you to heal the pain.

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

Utilize PPAC at least once a semester to really create and refine your game plan to apply. Take advantage of the PASC especially for your prerequisite courses. Put in hours at Joyner Library as well. If you want to join a family, I highly recommend the ECU Ambassadors. Dr. Roeder and all my fellow ambassadors have been so good to me since I joined my first year at ECU. Student government association is also good for developing leadership and public speaking skills.

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

The financial aspect was definitely tough as I was unable to obtain a DAT fee waiver but thankfully I got fee assistance for 3 of my applications. Also, obtaining letters of recommendations from science professors took a little more time than I thought it would because these instructors have very demanding schedules and asking them much more in advance would definitely be recommended.

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

The Eta Nu chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. The T.E.A.M. (Talented Empowered Aspired Men). ECU Ambassadors. SGA (Student Government Association). USNDA (Undergraduate Student National Dental Association). G.O.L.D. Leaders. ECU Club Rugby.

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

My favorite part of the journey has been the increase in faith I experienced during this whole journey and having people around me who believed in me when I may not have believed in myself. The relationships I have developed along the way have been so valuable to me and will continue to cherish them as I journey to becoming a provider.

What type of shadowing did you do?

I primarily shadowed two general dentists who had their own private practices in Fayetteville and Hope Mills respectively.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I volunteered at a few of the MOM (Mission of Mercy) clinics focused on providing low-cost/free dental care to the community. I mentored/tutored K-12 children and assisted in our annual Eric Pittman Jr. bookbag drives in memory of our fallen brother (T.E.A.M.). I gave campus tours and helped with local events on campus and in the Greenville community, my favorite being the Special Populations Prom (ECU Ambassadors). I also participated in our fraternity's various National Programs such as 'A Voteless People is a Hopeless People', registering voters (Alpha Phi Alpha).

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

I did public health research as part of my internship with the ECU School of Dental Medicine under Dr. Wanda Wright. The research was focused on assessing the humanistic environment of the dental school across many different areas including diversity and inclusiveness. I also assisted the Department of Health Education and Promotion with their alcohol field study in downtown Greenville focused on assessing the alcohol usage behaviors of the patrons there on weekend nights.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

My most rewarding experience at ECU would have to be going through all the trials and tribulations and yet still coming out victorious in the end at graduation. The suffering had a purpose and the reward felt even greater because of the blood, sweat, and tears that went into these degrees.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

Trust in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and He will provide everything you need. "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."- 1 John 4:4