

# REBECCA SARPONG

CLASS OF 2021



## STUDENT PROFILE

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**Hometown:** Raleigh, NC

**Undergraduate Major:** Chemistry, Science Minor

**Career Aspiration:** Pharmacist

**Professional School:** Wingate University School of Pharmacy

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

My favorite part has been the connections I have made along the way through the process. Between the help of advisors, mentors, managers, and associates I have learned so much from them and they were a vital part of the process for me.

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

I am a first-generation college student, and I did not know a lot of people in this field so I had to figure things out and find people that could help me and provide me with the information I needed to reach my goals.

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

I was involved in organizations at ECU, I made sure I had all the pre-requisites, and a good GPA. I also researched schools and spoke with faculty and admissions at the school to get a feel for the environment.

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

I was the vice president of the Pre-pharmacy club, a member of ECU Ambassadors, a member of Queen In You, and part of the ADESSA research lab.

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

Organizations like the Pre-pharmacy club because they have lots of leadership opportunities and was helpful to me. Pre-Professional advising was very beneficial with the application process and know exactly what I needed to do to get to where I wanted to go. Also, I went to career services a couple times to practice my interview skills and to look over my resume.

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

I was a Pharmacy Technician at CVS so I gained shadowing experience that way.

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

I was a part of numerous food and clothing drives in my organizations, I also helped in fundraisers in those organizations, and I had done various mission trips around the US before coming to ECU.

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

I was a part of Professor Kris Callis-Duehl research lab in 2019 called ADESSA we focused on observing and analyzing how students learned about biological concepts and how we could improve that knowledge.

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

Graduation, after going through my whole senior year in quarantine it was great to have a graduation to celebrate all the hard work, I put into the last 4 years.

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

I wish I applied earlier and practiced more for my interviews. I would have given myself more time to complete everything and prepare.

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

Get help if you need it and know that you have a whole community of people that support you and want to see you succeed. And also make sure you make time for yourself to relax and have fun because you only get this opportunity once.