



ZACHARY GRIFFIN

CLASS OF 2022

STUDENT PROFILE

Hometown: Bath, NC

Undergraduate Major: Biology with a minor in Business Administration

Career Aspirations: Dentistry

Professional School: East Carolina School of Dental Medicine

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

I enjoyed meeting people from different walks of life that had the same goals as I do.

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

Preparing your mindset and having an optimistic outlook on things is key. Also, I think keeping the end goal in the front of my mind was my motivation to ensure that I completed all objectives for the application process.

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

I think maintaining constant communication with advisors and peers help ensure that you are on track and have all necessary requirements completed in a sufficient manner.

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

I recommend developing a relationship with your advisors and joining clubs that pertain to your desired field.

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

Staying on track with an efficient timeline during the application process was the tougher than I anticipated.

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

- Pre-Dental Honor Society
- Student Government Association
- ECU Ducks Unlimited

What type of shadowing did you do?

I shadowed several dentists in Eastern North Carolina.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I volunteered with my church, a local youth ministry, and at NC MOM Clinics.

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

I did a bit of research that involved growing nematodes and testing them amongst various levels of nickel and observing damage done to their DNA.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

I think the most rewarding experience I had at ECU was being able to provide motivation/advice to younger students who were going through things that I also went through.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

If you want to pursue something, don't take "no" for answer; it may be challenging, but it is not as impossible as most people make it seem!