What’s been your favorite part of the journey to apply to professional schools?
The pruning process with building confidence in myself and learning to trust in God for all situations. I saw myself grow mentally, spiritually and emotionally in real time. It was amazing to see the maturation and growth in sagacity.

What were some of the challenges you came across when preparing to apply to schools (or what was tougher than you thought)?
The most challenging tasks I encountered when specifically preparing to apply to schools were balancing my full-time job, studying for the DAT, and still being involved in the community. Applying to professional schools will also be expensive, so mentally and financially preparing for the expenses will assist in the texture of the process.

How did you prepare yourself for the process of applying to schools?
I prepared myself by viewing the centralized application one year prior to the year I was applying to dental school. This gave me insight on what to expect so I was better prepared to complete my application. I met with the Pre-Professional advising staff to seek guidance about applying to schools as often as I could. I sought mentorship from current/former dental candidates who knew what to expect for the process of applying to dental school.

Looking back, what advice would you give students who are interested in professional schools? Is there anything you wish you had known earlier?
Get involved in any service organization and establish your niche. I definitely suggest that you have a profession in mind that you want to pursue (if you have the opportunity). Four years is a short amount of time to prepare for professional school, so that time has to be used in a valuable way! Discover your passion and grind relentlessly!
Did you do research? If so, what was the topic?
I completed research for the Department of Biology in the Dr. McCoy lab. The topic targeted the Effects of Predator Diversity on Ecosystem Function.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?
Very challenging to pinpoint my most rewarding experience amongst so many. I enjoyed working as a Resident Advisor. Building relationships with more than 250 residents over a two-year period was so much fun. Spending quality time with colleagues who are becoming lifelong friends was one of the highlights of my career at ECU. Growing into a community with ENC (Every Nation Campus) helped me strengthen my spiritual life and is where I found Christ. These very divine relationships and nostalgic moments mean more to me than I can explain.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?
Don’t become complacent, ever! Take suggestions from peers, colleagues, counselors and family but really hone in what works for you. Not every path for others will work for you. There is no single route to matriculation for professional school. It is very important to understand that you have to be in tune with your star player, yourself. Set examples for others and grow in empathy. I realized quickly that the path I am taking is not about me, but rather who comes after me. Detours in life are never failures unless you allow them to be.

-Be real, be righteous, be relevant.