Tyler McKinnish

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B.S. Biology

My name is Tyler, and I am a self-motivated, vibrant, and open-minded student from the tiny mountain town of Canton, NC! My hobbies include cooking (I couldn’t live without my copy of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* by Julia Child), baking, playing the piano (at which, admittedly, I’m not very good), hiking and jogging, spending time with my friends, and reading about new research in immunology and infectious diseases.

I recently graduated from Western Carolina University with a B.S. in Biology with minors in chemistry and environmental health, a program of study that allowed me to take a diverse medley of fascinating courses like food microbiology, arthropod zoology, immunology, and psychopharmacology. My major even provided the perfect opportunity to satisfy my love of travelling with a semester abroad in Queensland, Australia (one of the most biologically diverse regions on the planet), and to subsequently explore the beautiful South Island of New Zealand. In order to complement my degree with a bit of clinical experience, I also took a course in phlebotomy and clinical specimen collection.

For much of my undergraduate career I was employed by WCU as a chemistry and biology course tutor — an opportunity to help students improve their study habits and to get them excited about their courses that I relished! I also regularly volunteered at – and served on the Board of Directors of – the Good Samaritan Clinic of Jackson County. One of the greatest experiences in which I have ever had the privilege of participating, volunteering at the clinic gave me an immense appreciation for the value of serving my community. Though I don’t know exactly where, or in what capacity, I would like to practice medicine (primary care, emergency, infectious diseases?), I hope to continue to serve my community in the future by remaining an active volunteer for free clinics and community service organizations!

Quote:

The rigor and flexibility of my major, the multitude of available extracurricular and co-curricular experiences, and the support and encouragement that I was afforded by WCU faculty and staff were paramount to my success as a premedical student!