

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.” This quote by Marianne Williamson pushes me to explore my potential as an undergraduate student. From a child, I always knew I wanted to have a career in STEM whether it was as a mathematician, radiologist or engineer. I was exposed to different branches of engineering through the Center for Pre-College Program’s FEMME program at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) from the fourth to eighth grade. Each summer I explored different engineering careers in environmental, aeronautical, chemical and biomedical respectively. The experience that resonated with me the most was definitely biomedical hence why that is my current major.

During high school, classes focused on biomechanics and rehabilitation science ultimately directed my concentration. Injuries sustained from swimming and track-and-field led to my hands-on experience in physical therapy. Months of rehabilitation allowed me to gain more insight into career options. My therapist would always speak in anatomical terms thus resulting in me gaining real world experience. Although Biomedical Engineering remains my major and not Biology Pre-Physical Therapy the interests are still relevant. There are multiple careers that combines my passions into one job while maintaining flexibility.

Throughout my matriculation at Jackson State University, my coursework ranges from Fine Art to Computer Science. Each of my classes have been engaging in one aspect or another whether it was through the material, professor or coursework. Something valuable was taught in every class that I can apply in my career or day-to-day life. The means by which my Computer Science professor taught C++ programming peaked my interest in coding which opened my eyes to the numerous ways this skill is implemented in Biomedical Engineering. My Speech Arts professor taught me how to properly present myself and my research in a timely manner.

On top on academics, extracurricular activities are a huge part of my life. Organizations, clubs and volunteering teaches me how to balance a social and professional life. As a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, I am afforded the opportunity to attend conferences such as Becoming Everything You Are (BEYA) Conference hosted by the Council of HBCU Engineering Deans and *US Black Engineer & Information Technology Magazine*. Membership of my collegiate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and the National Associate for the Advancement of Colored People allows me to network with both undergraduate, graduate students and professionals around the world.

As a student leader in my campus' Student Government Association and Campus Activities Board, I serve as a liaison between the students and the administration. With these roles comes the perks of meeting Deans, Presidents and CEOs, which is great exposure. While maintaining a 3.8 cumulative GPA and positions in multiple organizations, community service is still a priority. At my institution, a certain number of approved hours are required to graduate. My service has included serving and stocking at the food pantry, separating clothes at the community closet, making pillowcase dresses for children in Africa and even cleaning up campus. Giving to others is important to me and will always hold a certain priority in my life.

During the summer of 2020, my professional relationship with my Computer Science professor assisted in me being a part of the Science Gateways Community Institute's (SGCI) Coding Institute and the Practice & Experience in Advanced Research Computing Conference (PEARC). Both experiences strengthened my skill set, allowed me to make connections with professionals and prepared me for research opportunities in the future. Research and experience is important in any field and is interdisciplinary; it will grant me the occasions to implement my knowledge from lecture and laboratory classes. These opportunities also make me a stronger candidate for other internships, conferences, organization positions and ultimately jobs with powerful companies.

Currently, my major is Biomedical Engineering with a minor in general mathematics. My expected graduation year is 2022 but I entered college Fall 2019. My scholarship allows me an education until Spring 2023, so I plan on declaring a second major in Biology. After graduation, attending Northwestern University for my Masters of Prosthetics and Orthotics is my plan. Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine's Prosthetics-Orthotics program is number two in the nation. Once my Master's is obtained, a Doctorate program may be next just to maximize my options in my field. If I chose not to pursue a PHD, my ideal job would be working for a prosthetics company both abroad and in America; the flexibility would be great.

My ultimate career goal is to establish a prosthetics company and rehabilitation centers around the country. This encompasses my passions and interests of biomechanics, rehabilitation science and charity. Having both entities will allow me to see my inventions work in real time. Although this goal is long-term, I am willing to climb the ladder of success to get closer and closer to my goal every day. Meeting the right people and taking advantage of the right opportunities will enable me to maximize my potential.