

Progress Report for SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for this scholarship! It truly is a privilege to be affirmed in my career aspirations and to receive this scholarship. Thus far, I have used the scholarship money to reduce the amount of loans I have to take out for my undergraduate education. This has taken off a significant burden off of my shoulders, as I have been able to focus more on my studies and less on campus jobs. Largely due to that relief of financial burden, I am glad to report that I had my most successful semester yet in Fall 2019!

This past semester, I took courses in genetics, organic chemistry (2nd semester), intermediate microeconomics, introductory psychology, and introductory statistics. I truly enjoyed every class and I think I was able to glean a lot due to my increased effort in each class. Outside of the classroom, I continued tutoring at a local jail to help inmates study for a high school equivalency exam. Although I won't be continuing that experience this upcoming Spring semester due to scheduling conflicts, I will begin working with a non-profit organization called Matriculate to mentor and help low-income, high-achieving high school students apply to top colleges. I hope to provide as much support as I can, and help combat the large socioeconomic divide in higher education.

This upcoming semester, I am furthering my interests in the human body and the intersection between chemistry and biology by taking a physiology course as well as a biochemistry course. Further, I am taking an econometrics course this semester to further explore my interests in economics. Now that I am finished with all of my introductory courses for biology, chemistry, and economics, I am very excited to take elective courses that are more

Abraham Park
asp8@williams.edu | (909)532-1444

pertinent to my interests. In future semesters, I hope to take more biochemistry courses as well as economics courses that discuss access to medical care and higher education.

Eventually, I hope to work in an academic hospital, taking care of patients while teaching students and conducting research to advance the field of medicine and impact generations to come. As a result, I have been applying to a mix of programs that involve biomedical research or clinical experiences. I believe that many of these programs would enable me to take a tangible step towards my long-term goal, as I will (hopefully) be introduced to clinical and basic science research, observe quality patient care, see what it takes to view patients as more than just signs and symptoms, and learn how to build crucial physician-patient relationships.

This generous scholarship from SNUCMAA-NA has undoubtedly had a positive impact on my academic performance, as well as my general outlook on my career. The fact that there are many Korean-American physicians who see promise in my goals means a lot to me, and I now know that these ambitious dreams are attainable. I hope to stay true to my intended long-term goals of becoming a patient-focused physician who values personal relationships and continually works towards delivering quality care to culturally and socioeconomically diverse populations.