

2020 Department of Biology Awards

CHRISTENSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Emily Pugsley, Human Biology



My name is Emily Rebecca Pugsley. I am nineteen years old and a sophomore at Utah State University. I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and grew up in Magna, Utah. I enjoy spending time with my family, particularly in the outdoors, hiking, and camping. I am also passionate about the arts: painting, drawing, and reading. I have always enjoyed learning and want to as much as I can. The appeal of a career in medicine blossomed during my sophomore year in high school I took an Intro to Healthcare and Basic

First Aid class. In those classes I learned of the wide variety of different medical careers. We mostly focused on emergency medicine. We learned CPR, emergency moves, how to take blood pressure and stop bleeding. That and the adrenaline rush that comes with emergencies made me so excited about medicine, especially working in emergency medicine with children. I spent the next few years in high school taking as many health science related classes that I could, which led to achieving a license as an Emergency Medical Technician and a Phlebotomist. Most of my volunteer work focuses on working with children and I have worked with them over the past few years. In 2017-2018 I volunteered twice a week for an hour or two at an elementary in my town helping second graders. In December 2018 I started volunteering at Primary Children's Hospital in the Forever Young Playroom as part of their kid's crew. While there I would help children make crafts, play games, or hold a baby and spend time with them when their parents could not. In August 2019 I began attending USU and had to stop but returned to the program over Christmas break, and plan on attending this summer as well. My goal is to attend medical school after my undergrad and work as either a Pediatric Oncology Physician or Pediatric Emergency Physician.

I knew that I wanted to attend college and pursue a bachelor's degree in biology as a step to further my ambitions of being a doctor. I got accepted at Utah State University and received a Resident Achievement Scholarship and a Merit Private Donor Scholarship through Scholarship of America. I have greatly enjoyed my time at USU so far and have an overall GPA of 3.75. I recently joined the service committee with the Pre-Med Club this year and want to be able to find more volunteer options in Cache Valley to give back to the community. I plan to declare minors in the coming year in psychology and art. In the future I want to get involved in research. I am willing to work on any type of research but am particularly interested in anything that has to do with cell biology or cancer.