

I was born in a middle-class family in a poor yet culturally rich country, xxxxxx. Living in xxxxxx has taught me so many great life lessons. I learned that a meaningful life is about aiming high and constantly persevering to reach your goals. At seventeen years old, my life took a drastically different path, when I took an opportunity to pursue a Bachelor' degree in the US at Bridgewater State University (BSU). I moved to the United States hoping that it would welcome me with a better future. Knowing that I was far away from my parents, I would only have myself to fall back on in this new journey. Hence, I realized that it was exceedingly important to handle things on my own. At first, everything was new and extremely difficult to adjust. Integrating in a new society made me change my traditional lifestyle and my habits. I had to learn a new language, and adapt to new cultural norms and academic environment. These challenges had a negative impact on my grades, which has been very hard on me as I have always been a good student. I have been working hard to improve my grades and I believe that my academic record does not reflect my true abilities or define me as a student.

I choose to take more rigorous courses such as Cell Signaling, Toxicology and Endocrinology, all of which presented challenges. However, I learned great techniques such as ELISA and Western blot which have been helpful in other classes as well, such as Biochemistry and Advanced Biochemistry Laboratory. I started as a Biology major, however after taking Organic Chemistry I, I realized that chemistry was my true passion and that I wanted to pursue a career in Chemistry. I liked biology, especially molecular and cellular biology and by integrating the concepts that I already had into chemistry I realized that Biochemistry was the right field for me. Attending Bridgewater State University gave the opportunity to be engaged in research and work hands on in laboratory classes. Through my laboratory classes and research, I have gained experience in a broad range of laboratory techniques, such as the characterization of organic compounds using IR and NMR spectrometry, thin layer chromatography, GS-MS, PCR, ion exchange chromatography, size exclusion chromatography, and Bradford assay.

I am enrolled in Departmental Honors for Chemistry and I plan to write a thesis based on the research I'm currently conducting. I am also working as a Peer Leader for organic and general chemistry. As a Peer Leader, I am required to attend lectures and laboratory, help guide students on their in-class worksheets, and assist in the organic laboratory. In addition, I hold office hours and review sessions in which I help students with specific problems or in their preparation for an exam. This experience was rewarding to me, as it awakened/incited a passion for teaching. Hence, this opportunity has provided me with valuable experience, prepared me for teaching assistant work in graduate school, provides a continuous review of general concepts in chemistry, and I am able to help my fellow students.

I have been conducting research in chemistry with Dr. xxxxx xxxxx since fall 2016 on the synthesis, purification, and characterization of potential enzyme inhibitors. The goal of my research is to characterize the aqueous chemistry and stability of a small molecule enzyme inhibitor, Glutathione-Methyleneoxindole conjugate (GSMOI), and determine if a good kinetic model for physiological enzyme reactions and inhibition can be developed. First, synthesis and purification of a molecule called 3-bromooxindole acetic acid (BOAA) was conducted. Then, BOAA was used to synthesize 3-methyleneoxindole (MOI), which was combined with the natural peptide glutathione (GSH), to make GSMOI, a potential anti-cancer target compound. I

was able to continue my research in the summer of 2017, when I received a competitive summer grant from the Adrian Tinsley Program here at BSU.

In conclusion, my life experiences have taught me to be independent and more responsible; these are fundamental qualities that can help me reach my goals. My research experience, academic preparation and personal qualities have prepared me for the expectations of your program. Having the opportunity to study at xxxxxx University would be a great opportunity for me to continue my studies because it has a great academic curriculum, and a diverse community. I hope you will give me the privilege of continuing my studies at your fine institution.