



Undergraduate Research Center

Office of Undergraduate Education

Home • [Matthew Culberson](#)



Matthew Culberson

April 09, 2018

Matthew Culberson



Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, 2018

Graduate School: University of Michigan

Focus of Study: Organic Chemistry

Grad School Program: Organic Chemistry PhD Program

Hometown: Stockton, CA

Where are you now? Michigan – Ann Arbor

What three words describe you?: Passionate, Intellectual, Connected

and Creative Activities Conference, Louis Stokes California Alliance for Minority Participation Statewide Undergraduate Research Symposium

Achievements/Awards: Rackham Merit Fellowship Program (graduate fellowship recipient)

Matthew R. Culberson achieved a Bachelors in Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UC Davis in the Winter of 2018. His undergraduate career was partially funded from over twenty scholarships. He also worked as a university chemistry tutor for four of the five years he spent at UC Davis. Matthew's first research experience was



gained in a neuroscience laboratory, studying traumatic brain injury under Dr. Gene G. Gurkoff. This opportunity was funded through the Biology Undergraduate Scholars Program (BUSP). The next research opportunity was organic chemistry centered, under Prof. Jared T. Shaw. Matthew studied enantioselective synthesis and methodology development. This research was funded by the NSF LSAMP/California Alliance for Minority Participation (CAMP) program and Dr. Shaw's supplement grant. Mr. Culberson worked as a summer intern in Melanie Sanford's research group at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.

What are your future plans and/or goals?

I plan to obtain a PhD and become a chemistry professor.



and plans?

Undergraduate research has demonstrated the life of a scientist, which was once unknown to me. It has developed my ability to practice technical laboratory skills and the scientific method. Lastly, it gave me the opportunity to explore science that was learned in the courses I was enrolled in.

What preparation and research experience did you have before applying to your research program?

Two years of neuroscience research with Dr. Gene Gurkoff in the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience, studying traumatic brain injury (TBI), and one year organic chemistry research doing methodology synthesis with Dr. Jared T. Shaw.

What advice do you have for other undergraduate students seeking research experiences?



Learn the field you're playing in, and impact it in your own way. Leave your impression. Don't settle for anything less than the best. Don't let anyone define your abilities. Go out, and be better than your past self! "Peace with past, freedom in present, faith for future" - Matthew R. Culberson



changed the trajectory of my life. The CAMP program informed me on what it meant to go to graduate school and explained how it was heavily weighed on research abilities, not teaching abilities. CAMP guided me through the process of becoming a researcher, taught me how to be a successful pre-graduate school scholar, and provided financial security so that I could invest more of my time in

being an independent researcher so that I would be more prepared for a PhD program."

Tags

CAMP

CAMP Scholars



David Duronslet

February 23, 2021



Kimberly Evans

February 11, 2021



Sydney Woods

February 11, 2021



Alison Ramirez

February 11, 2021



Related Articles



David Duronslet

February 23, 2021



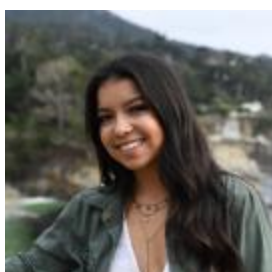
Kimberly Evans

February 11, 2021



Sydney Woods

February 11, 2021



Maria Fernanda Barajas Mendoza

February 11, 2021



Undergraduate Education fosters diverse, innovative and transformative educational experiences for all undergraduate students.

Student support

Center for Leadership Learning

First-Year Seminars

Quarter at Aggie Square

Summer Sessions

Undergraduate Research Center

University Honors Program

Washington Program

Writing Center

Faculty support

writing Center

Advisor support

Academic Advising Enrichment

Initiatives

First-Generation Initiative

Beyond the Barriers



Office of Undergraduate Education

Undergraduate Research Center

Email: urc@ucdavis.edu | **Tel:** +1 (530) 752-3390 | **Fax:** +1 (530) 754-7115

[Privacy & Accessibility](#) | [Principles of Community](#) | [University of California](#) | [Sitemap](#) |

Last update: December 5, 2020

Copyright © The Regents of the University of California, Davis campus. All rights reserved.

This site is officially grown in SiteFarm.

