**Mackenzie Tabler**

**Address**

**804-310-6087**

**mackenzie.tabler@live.longwood.edu**

**STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Conducted laboratory based research both independently and during collaborative projects with peers and professors. Expanded medical knowledge through volunteering at Prince Edward Rescue Squad as an Emergency Medical Technician, and through interning with a Dermatology Physician’s Assistant.

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science in Biology.** Longwood University, Farmville, VA *May 2018*

* Chemistry Minor
* GPA of 3.75/4.0
* *President’s List* (Fall 2017), *Dean’s List* (2014-2018)
* Cormier Honors College
* Study Abroad 2017 (England/France)

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Organic Chemistry Tutor.** Longwood University, Farmville, VA *January 2018 - Present*

* Assist Longwood students with the acquisition of Chemistry knowledge both one-on-one and in groups
* Collaborate with an Organic Chemistry professor, Dr. Andrew Yeagley, to ensure the effective delivery of accurate information
* Provide respectful and immediate feedback and address students professionally and compassionately

**Tinker’s.** Richmond, Virginia *December 2017 - Present*

* Maintain personal relations with customers to ensure satisfaction and retention
* Handle money and initiate financial transactions
* Cleaned and organized store daily in accordance to health standards

**Intern.** Dermatology Associates of Virginia, Midlothian, Virginia  *January 2017*

* Shadowed Jennifer Bauer, PA and Dr. Georgia Sealy for 50 hours
* Assisted in and observed medical procedures such as a cyst removal and Mohs surgery
* Learned the basic expectations of a physician’s assistant and observed the professional interactions between a PA and doctor

**Rainbow Station.** Glen Allen, Virginia  *April 2017 – August 2017*

* Worked with campers ranging from preschool-aged to middle school
* Differentiated educational and recreational activities for 2 students with special needs

**Cormier Honors Research.** Longwood University, Farmville Virginia *September 2014 - Present*

* Two of the six honors research projects completed:
  + “Understanding Molecular Pathways of Fin Regeneration in the Zebrafish” with Dr. Adam R. Franssen
  + “Detecting Metals in Water Using *E. coli* as Biosensors” with Dr. Consuelo Alvarez

**REVELANT SKILLS**

* SDS-PAGE
* DNA Gel Electrophoresis
* PCR
* Bacterial Cultures
* Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
* BLAST
* ELISA

**CERTIFICATIONS**

August 2018 **CPR Certification**

March 2018 **EMT Certification**

**MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Phi Kappa Phi, Longwood Honors Society

Environmental Society

* *Treasurer*

Beta Beta Beta, Biological Honor Society

* *Secretary*

Alpha Chi Sigma, Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Sigma Alpha Pi, Professional Leadership Society

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March 28, 2018

University’s Address

Dear Applicant Selection Committee:

I am writing to express my interest in the Master of Science Physician Assistant degree program at South University. Through my studies at Longwood University as well as my internship experience, I have obtained both content knowledge and hands on experience. I know that the South University’s Physician Assistant (PA) degree program aims to educate students as providers of high quality health care who will make a positive difference, and also strives to provide academic experiences, where faculty and students work together with mutual respect and commitment. This mission of the university is the reason why I am particularly interested in becoming apart of such an outstanding learning community.

In May of 2018, I will receive my Bachelors of Science degree with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry from Longwood University. In being a member of the Cormier Honors College, I have been able to conduct a great deal of laboratory based research. During my internship experience at Dermatology Associates of Virginia, I shadowed Jennifer Bauer, PA and Dr. Georgia Sealy and was given the opportunity to observe surgeries, acne screenings, wart removals, skin cancer removal, and many others procedures. Through this experience, I was able to learn the basic expectations of a physician’s assistant and observe the professional interactions between a PA and doctor. I am also a certified Emergency Medical Technician, which has allowed me to expand my medical knowledge and experience by volunteering at a Prince Edward Rescue Squad.

I personally believe that I would be a great candidate for this program because ever since I was diagnosed with alopecia areata nine years ago, I have had a strong desire to go into the medical field to help individuals who undergo similar battles. After shadowing Jennifer Bauer, PA, I knew that becoming a Physician’s Assistant was my future.

Through my studies at Longwood University and my past experiences, I know that I am capable of being a vital addition to your program. Thank you so much for your time and attention; I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this position further. Should you require any additional information in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mackenzie.tabler@live.longwood.edu](mailto:mackenzie.tabler@live.longwood.edu) or (804)310-6087. I will follow up within the next week, and I greatly appreciate your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Tabler

**PERSONAL STATEMENT: Mackenzie Tabler**

I was thirteen years old when I woke up one morning and noticed a clump of hair on my pillow. Trying not to panic, I looked in the mirror and noticed a sand dollar sized bald spot on the back of my head. My parents took me to the Dermatologist and that was the day I was diagnosed with alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss. That day changed my life forever. The most difficult part about losing your hair, especially starting at such a young age, is that you completely lose your self-esteem. My biggest fear after being diagnosed was that people wouldn’t accept me or would make fun of me for being different. I was completely bald for five years, and in those years, I lost all of my body hair as well. Every morning I would have to draw on my eyebrows and make sure my wig was on straight. Having that happen to me at such a young age caused me to completely shut down a part of me. I wished for acceptance, but I feared if I told people about my disease, I wouldn’t be. Though I still struggle with this disease everyday, finding new patches here and there, I have learned to accept who I am and to be more confident in myself. To someone who is going through something similar, I would say, don’t let it hold you back. Don’t let it make you feel alone. Don’t let it tear you apart. Don’t let it change you. Don’t let it become the thing you fear the most. Embrace that you are different. After all of these years, I have come to the realization that Alopecia isn’t a curse, it is a blessing. I am glad that I have Alopecia because it has helped shape me into the person I am today and the person that I hope to be in the future.

Mark Twain once said “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” The day I was diagnosed with Alopecia was the day I realized my purpose, the day I understood what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I knew from that day forward that my purpose would be to help individuals, not only those who battle with something similar, but also those who are just struggling and can’t fight it on their own. To fulfill this aspiration, I hope to achieve a Master of Science in Physician Assistant studies at South University. I recognize that the South University’s Physician Assistant (PA) degree program aims to educate students as providers of high quality health care who will make a positive difference, and also strives to provide academic experiences, where faculty and students work together with mutual respect and commitment. This mission of the university is the reason why I am particularly interested in becoming apart of such an outstanding learning community.

In May of 2018, I will receive my Bachelors of Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Longwood University. Longwood has become a second home to me over the past four years and has presented me with so many amazing opportunities. One of the most unforgettable memories I have at Longwood is meeting and getting to know the president of our university. Because both of my parents attended Longwood, he wanted me to stand up with him while he gave a farewell speech to one of the oldest buildings on campus. I was ecstatic that the president of our university wanted not only to meet me, but for me to accompany him during this event. I was extremely honored to be apart of such an exciting event that kicked off the school year, as well as said goodbye to such an important part of Longwood.

Attending Longwood University, and specifically being apart of the Cormier Honors College, opened up many new avenues for me. One summer, I travelled over-seas to England and France for a study abroad trip. During my time there, I experienced a new sense of independence that I had never experienced before. From this trip, I was able to diversify myself in all different aspect of cultures that I encountered. It was also an extremely eye-opening experience, that made me have a greater appreciation for those extraordinary cultures. Through the Honors College, I have conducted many different research projects in the lab, both independently and during collaborative projects. At the end of each semester, I would compile the research I had done and present it to peers and professors. I have conducted six different honors research projects throughout my time at Longwood. My favorite experiment was titled “Understanding Molecular Pathways of Fin Regeneration in the Zebrafish,” which was aided by Dr. Adam R. Franssen. For this project, I investigated the role of the Wnt signaling pathway during regeneration of caudal fins in zebra fish by inhibiting expression using different concentrations of Lithium Chloride. Following the caudal fin amputation, I observed the regeneration of fins with different degrees of Wnt signaling suppression. Another honors project I conducted with three of my peers and Dr. Consuelo Alvarez was called “Detecting Metals in Water Using *E. coli* as Biosensors.” By creating new recombinant DNA, our experiment resulted in biosensors that were able to detect heavy metals in water, such as cadmium, mercury, and arsenic. In creating this data, we can further this to determine how to rid our waters of heavy metal contamination. Overall, these intense experimental research projects have given me the ability to not only learn about these diverse topics, but also personally work to test hypotheses.

Studying and working to become a certified Emergency Medical Technician has helped me gain essential medical knowledge. With just receiving my EMT certification, I don’t have as much patient contact as I would like, but I do have the ride along experience. Being the first responder to medical emergencies, you encounter people in many different states and degrees of helplessness. I will always be grateful for having the opportunity to be there to help individuals in their time of need. That moment when a terrified patient grabs your hand as the ambulance is racing to the hospital, is something that I will never forget. Having this fundamental medical knowledge and patient experience will aid in my studies as a Physicians Assistant.

My internship, which was completed as Dermatology Associates of Virginia, was an amazing experience. In shadowing Jennifer Bauer, PA and Dr. Georgia Sealy, I learned the basic expectations of a physician’s assistant and observed the professional interactions between a PA and doctor. Through this experience, I learned so much about this field; such as different skin diseases and medical procedures, different expectations of a physician’s assistant, and most importantly, patient care. I was given the opportunity to observe surgeries, acne screenings, wart removals, skin cancer removal, and many others procedures. This internship showed me the significance of skilled and passionate medical professionals. This experience further solidified my desire to attend physician assistant graduate school.

In the South University Physicians Assistant program, I wish to not only excel in academics, but also as a healthcare professional. Through my studies at Longwood University and my past experiences, I know that I am capable of being a vital addition to your program.