

Goal 3.4

Reflection

Being to collaborate effectively in a group setting is an incredibly important skill to have as a scientist. Most research done is done with a group or partner, although independent research is common as well. At Longwood University, professors in the science department have students work in groups to add to their set skills. There is the importance of working in groups and being able to manage the setting. Professors want to see if students are able to take leadership, work well with others, manage different opinions, and present material cohesively. Throughout my time at Longwood, I have been able to improve on effectively collaborating in a group setting with various papers.

Working in a group setting is a learning experience for everyone. Every person has different personalities and opinions. Because of this, the skill of being able to collaborate in a group setting is important, especially in research. For ecology, I was able to work in a group setting for research on periphyton in two different bodies of water as well as effectively collaborating on a lab report. Throughout this experience, I was able to learn my own strengths and weaknesses as well as my leadership skills. My next paper was for microbiology and my group and I was able to come up with experiment design and conduct the experience with reasonable results. During this group setting, I was able to effectively collaborate with students to present accountable information. My last paper is my senior research paper. I was able to show my skills that I've learned from the past 3 years as a collaborator. Working with various students can be tough, but with the right techniques and skills, it can be an easy task. With this paper, I was able to communicate, lead, and listen as a well-prepared partner.

Throughout the 4 years at Longwood, I have been able to improve on my group skills and learn my strengths and weaknesses as a partner. I am confident that I am a helpful partner and present important skills to any group I work with. I know in the future being able to collaborate effectively in a group setting will come to use as I pursue my future as a Physician's Assistant.