Personal Statement

Coming into college, I had my heart set on becoming a veterinarian. I worked at a veterinary clinic learning to draw blood, give vaccinations, and properly handle and care for dogs and cats. I loved animals, but never thought about all of the other things I could do with them as a career. While taking lower level biology courses in my earlier years of college, I realized there was so much more I could do to help the animals I love and the environment they live in. It showed me that I was capable of helping animals on a larger scale. This led me to be passionate about pursuing a higher-level education in the conservation biology field.

I began questioning even deeper what I actually wanted to do career wise after college. I started taking more classes with ecology-based curriculum and realized this was the direction that suited my interests best. I had the opportunity to study conservation in the Ecuadorian Amazonian rainforest and learn how to properly test for water quality in a freshwater ecology class. These courses helped me grow not only as a student, but also as an up and coming biologist in the field.

What really solidified my love for the conservation field was my summer internship at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. My research focused on the effects of assisted reproductive technologies and how they could assist the critically endangered Red wolves in maintaining genetic diversity. I became proficient in cell culture, immunofluorescence staining, florescence microscopy, gamete cryopreservation, and basic laboratory skills. I was even selected to present my research as a finalist at the 46th annual International Embryo Technology Society conference. Here, I was able to explore the field of reproductive conservation at a more in-depth level.

Looking back at all of the classes I’ve taken and all of the opportunities I’ve been given, I find myself loving the field I’m in and wanting to advance it at an even higher level. My experience has enhanced my skills immensely and I am confident that I will continue to grow if given the opportunity to. My ambitious personality, hardworking spirit, and love of the field will continue to push me to be the best scientist and learner I can be.