



NORTH CENTRAL

Wisconsin Area Health Education Center

An Interview with Emily BonoAnno

North Central AHEC interviewed Emily BonoAnno, recent UW-La Crosse graduate about her experience in the Advocates in Medicine Pathway (AMP) and Community Health Internship Program (CHIP), and how these experiences played a role in her recent acceptance into medical school. Find more information about her journey below.



Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

I grew up in DeForest, Wisconsin and recently attended undergraduate school at University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. I majored in Biology with a Biomedical Science concentration. I was an AMP participant in spring 2024 (Cohort 4). I applied to be part of AMP because I was very interested in the shadowing experiences, the opportunity to meet medical student mentors, and to learn more about the Medical College of Wisconsin - Central Wisconsin (MCW-CW) campus that I read about on a flyer I was sent by a Pre-Health advisor at UW- La Crosse.



Emily BonoAnno (2nd from left) pictured with her AMP Cohort

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What has your journey of getting accepted into medical school like?

I knew I wanted to go to medical school since I was in middle school. As soon as I started undergrad, I learned all the prerequisites I needed to do and investigated different types of jobs and volunteer opportunities that would help me gain experience. My freshman year was during COVID-19, so there were not many opportunities available. I did as much as I could, which included being a member of UWL's First Year Research Exposure (FYRE) which led me to doing research with Dr. Cooper on human and squirrel platelets, volunteered at American Red Cross blood drives, and became a member of multiple UWL clubs. My sophomore year, I started working at Chileda, a facility that helps improve the quality of life for children with cognitive and behavioral challenges, and I started volunteering at Gundersen Health System as a patient companion. Due to my school schedule, it was no longer compatible with how shifts were structured at Chileda, so I started working at Mayo Clinic as a patient care assistant my junior year since their scheduling was more flexible with my school schedule. I also took on more leadership roles my junior year like becoming Co-President of UWL Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children and a mentor for FYRE. I knew I was going to take a gap year between undergrad and medical school, so I studied and took the MCAT senior year. I also prepared for medical school applications by participating in mock interviews and starting to write my personal statement and descriptions for my activities before the AMCAS application opened. I applied at the beginning of June and was accepted in October.

What drew you to medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin - Central Wisconsin?

I really liked the small class size, the supportive staff and faculty on this campus, and the 3 year curriculum for those interested in primary care specialties, which includes family medicine, the specialty I am very interested in.



Emily accepting her AMP graduation certificate in July 2024

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What role did the Advocates in Medicine Pathway (AMP) play in your path to medical school?

AMP played a huge role in my path to medical school. It connected me to the best people; I had a medical student mentor who knew the medical school application process and answered any questions I had. It was nice to get the perspective from someone who went through the process recently. It connected me to amazing faculty and physicians who I could go to for any help or advice, sacrificed time to allow me to shadow, and supported me anyway they could. Lastly, it connected me with other pre-meds that were going through the same thing I was at the same time so we could help each other throughout the application cycle, and cheer for each other through every victory along the way, whether it was an interview invite or acceptance, we celebrated with one another.

How did the Community Health Internship Program Internship (CHIP) influence your journey?

The CHIP internship I did at the Center for the Visual Arts (CVA) not only gave me the opportunity to learn about art and meet amazing artists and teachers, but it allowed me to fully immerse myself in the Wausau community. It helped me see firsthand the shortages of healthcare in the northcentral Wisconsin area, and what I want to contribute to this area when I become a physician to reduce health disparities.



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