

Christine L. Faunce

I have spent nearly all five years of my undergraduate career dedicated to research. While I began my research experiences studying pedestrian behavior, I have developed a passion for chemistry. Furthermore, I have pursued every opportunity at Virginia Tech to intersect my interests in chemistry and neuroscience through my curriculum and through my research experiences with the Buczynski Lab. My undergraduate research experiences have ignited my passion for using chemical biology as a tool to elucidate novel understandings of disease mechanisms and to uncover new therapeutic targets. My own research through the Buczynski Lab has allowed me to contribute novel findings on the molecular underpinnings of addiction, and that excitement is a feeling I hope to chase for the rest of my career in science. At the University of Pennsylvania, I hope to expand on my research background and focus on neuropharmacology. As a chemistry and neuroscience undergraduate student, neuropharmacology perfectly intersects my academic background, and I am hopeful to utilize chemical biology to capture novel therapeutic targets in the brain.

As a student intent on pursuing a career in research, there would be no better place to foster my learning and growth as a researcher than at the University of Pennsylvania. The collaborative and rigorous environment will motivate me to join my peers in pursuing answers to challenging questions of disease mechanisms and therapeutic development. While at Penn, I hope to serve the community in similar ways which I have served the Virginia Tech community. Through my leadership roles, I have initiated [REDACTED] and hosted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for younger students. I have promoted science throughout the community, and I hope to continue to do so at Penn and in Philadelphia. My five years at Virginia Tech have been defined by [REDACTED]

I believe that these cornerstones of my undergraduate career reflect the environment that the Biomedical Graduate Studies program fosters.

My undergraduate career has been built on interdisciplinary learning, and the BGS program would provide me with the collaborative and rigorous training I desire. At the University of Pennsylvania, I would hope to bring my interdisciplinary background to the lab of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The work by these scientists motivate me further to pursue a doctoral degree at Penn, and through their mentorship, I hope to determine whether I strive for a career in academic or industry research. I am pursuing the Graduate Training in Medical Sciences Certificate to assist this decision throughout my time at the University of Pennsylvania. I hope to strengthen my work from the bench to clinically relevant applications, and GTMS would best support this goal through the GTMS seminar series and elective coursework. The opportunity to complete a clinical or pharmaceutical clerkship motivates me to pursue the GTMS certificate program because it is an unparalleled experience to help me clarify my career path. Through either choice, I aim to pursue answers to questions related to disease pathology and use that information to develop more effective therapeutics. With Penn's history of pioneering biomedical research and education, I feel passionately that there is no better place for me to grow as a scientist.