

Student Stories

Meet Katie



Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Mathematics and French
Year: Senior

Age: 21

Hometown: Richmond, VA

High School: J.R. Tucker HS

Katie is a senior **Mechanical Engineering** major at VCU, and she's loving every minute of her college experience. She's become a pro at keeping as busy as she can while still balancing all of her coursework.

Katie is an officer in several organizations including the Engineering Student Council and Phi Sigma Sigma Fraternity. She's also a member of the Society of Women Engineers, the Swing Dance Club, and VCU All-Girls Cheerleading. Katie spends any extra time she has coaching middle-school gymnastics or working part-time at a local theme park.

For her internship, Katie worked locally for a consulting company and aided in final drafts for bridge and roadway projects, including a pedestrian bridge in D.C and the Huguenot Memorial Bridge in Henrico County.

Katie plans to spend some time working in the field before heading back to school to earn a graduate degree.

Favorites:

- **Class:** *Vibrations*
- **Professor:** *Dr. McLeskey*
- **Place to study:** *Group study room, West Hall*
- **Caffeine/food hotspot:** *Mojo's*
- **Weekend plans:** *Laser tag, local parks, live music, shopping, Kings Dominion*
- **Richmond City event:** *The Harvest Festival*

According to Katie: "I had always done art, and the switch to engineering was not easy, but I'm glad I chose a school with good professors and supportive classmates to help me through."

Some lab experience: "I worked in the CP Forming Lab with Dr. Koc. I took measurements from bulge tests and polished the copper and steel samples."

Her advice on college decisions? "Don't worry if your college decision isn't clear; sometimes places can surprise you. You can't base your decision on ratings and names—VCU wasn't always my first choice, but once I got here I knew I wouldn't have wanted to study anywhere else."