

# Student Stories

## Meet Allison



**Major:** Biomedical Engineering  
**Concentration:** Pre-Medical Track  
**Minor:** Chemistry

**Year:** Junior

**GPA:** 3.97

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Snohomish, WA

**High School:** Wilson Senior HS

Allison, a junior **Biomedical Engineering (BME)** student, plans to become a pediatric neurologist, and VCU Engineering has given her the tools to get there. "I became interested in neurology after I helped my mother recover from a major stroke. I'm constantly thinking of new ways to improve the lives of patients with neurological disorders, and I knew that the BME program at VCU would expose me to new research and products in medicine, and prepare me for becoming a physician."

As one of the four 2008 Barry M. Goldwater Scholars at VCU, Allison has worked at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at VCU, working in a tissue engineering lab to develop a composition that would assist with the healing process of damaged membranes in the ear. She also spent a summer at Johns Hopkins University helping to develop a shoe that adjusted walking movements to restore a patient's normal gait.

Allison plans to attend VCU's School of Medicine through the Guaranteed Admission program, and eventually earn a PhD in clinical research.

### Favorites:

- **Class:** *Organic Chemistry*
- **Place to study:** *Honors College or 4th floor cubby of Engineering West*
- **Local restaurant:** *Common Groundz*
- **Weekend plans:** *Local parks, shopping, studying*
- **Richmond City event:** *FIRST Robotics Regional Competition, or any of the local marathons*
- **On second glance:** *"I work with high school students as a midshipman for the local US Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit."*

**According to Allison:** "I've had such a great experience at VCU Engineering. I've worked with world-renowned professors, gotten top internships, and received a national scholarship! I looked at many other programs, but none compared to the opportunities I've had here."

**Her advice to students during their college search?** "Search for a school and a program that fits your personality. It's so important for you to enjoy your school and feel comfortable with fellow students."