



Transfer Success Story



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B.A., Northwestern University, 2020

A.S., Wilbur Wright College, 2018

I always knew that I wanted to go to college, however, when I graduated from Lane Tech High School in 2015, I had no idea how to get there. Both of my parents graduated with their associate's degrees from Wright many years ago, and no one in my immediate family had ever gone to a four-year university. Like many CPS students, I did not know where to begin and was terrified to make the wrong decision. Thankfully, one day my grandmother cut out an article from the newspaper about a new program the city had just introduced, The Chicago Star Scholarship program.

After a brief moment of disbelief over the idea that I could attend college for free, I decided to apply to Wright College. The Star Scholarship offered me not only three years of free tuition and books, but also the opportunity to explore my interests and build connections that would help shape the course of my academic career. Within my first week at Wright, the assumptions I held and the stigmas I had heard prior to attending community college quickly vanished.

Many of the professors I had at Wright taught at other esteemed universities like The University of Chicago, Loyola, and UIC and came from incredibly diverse backgrounds. Each of them had invaluable insights and experiences that made Wright College a rich and vibrant learning environment. I was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and joined the M.D.P.A. Association, a student organization for aspiring medical doctors and physician assistants. I also worked as a student ambassador in the Advising and Transfer Center. This integration into the campus community in combination with various college advisors, tutors, and faculty members who took a personal stake in helping me succeed ensured that I finally found the direction I needed.

I began the transfer process in the winter of 2018, armed with the unwavering support of my advisor, Dr. Cynthia Vessel, and many other members of the Advising and Transfer Center. In fall 2018, I was admitted to Northwestern University, one of the Chicago Star Scholarship university partners. Northwestern University provides a lucrative scholarship for Star scholars from the City Colleges. A large portion of my tuition was covered at Northwestern. In June of 2020, I graduated debt free with my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Health, Medicine and Science, from the Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences. In pursuit of my passion, I am now a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health, completing a Master's in Health Policy and Administration.