

## Primary Research Assessment #17

I conducted a primary research interview via Zoom with Peyton Harris, who is an Independent Study and Mentorship alumni. She is currently employed at Dermatology Consultants of Frisco where she works as a medical assistant. Medical assistants essentially assist doctors and medical office staff with both administrative and clinical tasks to ensure the efficient operation of medical facilities. They schedule appointments, escort patients to examination rooms, update medical records, and assist dermatologists with certain procedures. Peyton decided to pursue sports marketing as her ISM topic and discovered that the field was not for her. Going into college, she applied as a business major. She did not enjoy it and switched to biology and went down the Pre-Med track. During her studies, she worked as a scribe in an emergency room (as a part-time job). After graduating from University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science degree, she decided to work as a MA. In addition to this, she is also applying for medical schools. I really enjoyed talking to her more about her Pre-Med experience since this is the specific major I am planning to pursue when attending university. Since I plan on continuing my athletic career, I was definitely curious to hear how strenuous the studying schedule was and if I will have enough time to truly commit to it. She informed me that it is definitely manageable and talked about some classes she was required to take for their specific requirements (EX: physics, plant biology, etc). After discussing her personal experience, she inquired about what classes I currently take and provided some recommendations on what I should do if I am interested in the medical field.

She discussed how she enjoyed watching surgeries and interacting with the different patients that visit the office. Peyton also explained that she enjoys being able to constantly learn about different skin diseases and how they can be properly treated. However, she did speak on some difficulties she experiences which opened my eyes a bit. She went into depth about how some patients currently give her problems with the mask regulation (which is purely policy). In addition to this, she explained that since Dermatology is becoming increasingly digital, they often have system errors which is extremely frustrating. Conversing with Peyton supplied me with relevant information on her studies and current occupation. I was able to talk about my Independent Study and Mentorship course with her and describe some of the struggles I have been experiencing in relation to the course work and COVID-19. It was

refreshing to have someone finally understand where I am coming from and offer helpful advice on how to be successful in the course and as a professional.

Because of this interview, I have asked Peyton to consider being a mentor for me. Although she is doing a slightly different profession than I am primarily focusing on, I think I could still learn a lot from her. From our conversation, it seemed like she was very knowledgeable on the field of Dermatology. She honestly just impressed me a lot as she is already so successful at her age and had an admirable composure.