

KATLYN JO HAYS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Katlyn is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and a minor in Chemistry. Upon graduation, she will begin her full-time position at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center where she will train for the next two years to become a Forensic DNA Analyst. In this position, she will serve the state of Kansas by screening, identifying and comparing the DNA profiles of suspects, victims and crime scene samples. This information could potentially lead to the arrest of violent offenders and bring justice to victims and their families. After being in the analyst role for a number years, she plans to pursue research in the field of forensic biology to advance the specificity and validity of both current techniques and those in development.

Katlyn is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Mortar Board Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, and the Washburn University Honors Program. She was named Outstanding General Chemistry Student of the Year in May 2017, and was recently named one of three Washburn Biology Meinershagen Senior Scholarship Award recipients in April of 2019. In addition, she participated in student organizations on campus, including Chemistry Club, Biology Club, and Forensic Science Club where she has served a variety of leadership roles, including Co-President of Forensic Science Club and Secretary/Treasurer for Chemistry Club.

During her time at Washburn, Katlyn has been a part of two internship programs with both the Federal Bureau of Investigation since August 2018. During her time at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, she worked with the biology section on a Washburn Transformational Experience project titled "Utilizing alternative organic extraction lysis buffers to increase DNA yield per KBI policy." The results of this project are under review and could potentially lead to a change in current protocol.

Katlyn received the Valedictorian Scholarship, Washburn University Academic Scholarships, the Brunt Scholarship, the Meinershagen Senior Scholarship, Forensic Science Chem/Bio Scholarship, Viola Ramskill Chemistry Scholarship, Rigby Biology Scholarship, Sarah Lu Carter Biology Scholarship, Hale Chemistry Scholarship, Steven Weeks Chemistry Scholarship, Shipley Hocker Biology Scholarship, Cohen Fund for Excellence in Chemistry Scholarship, and the Conrad/Frising WEA Scholarship.