



Jackson Nguyen

'26

BS in Biochemistry

Why did you choose to study at WPI?

As a pre-med student, I wasn't sure if WPI, with its strong engineering focus, was the right fit for me. Most of my friends are aspiring engineers and sometimes I felt left out. However, I'm really glad I stuck with WPI. Even though being pre-med puts me in the minority, you can still find your community! The pre-med community here might be small, but it's tight-knit and focused. Everyone – from professors and advisors to friends – is ready to have your back. The coursework is challenging, and I'm confident it's helping me prepare nicely for med school. Plenty of WPI grads have gone on to med school, so it's definitely doable!

Also, the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) and Major Qualifying Project (MQP) are another reason I chose WPI. When talking to upperclassmen and grads, they all raved about how awesome and enriching those projects were, and I can't wait to pursue them soon!!

How are you involved with the WPI community?

I am an active member of Green Team and WPI Emergency Medical Services (EMS). In Green Team, I am the chair of the Waste Management committee and I lead everyone on various sustainability projects to help WPI reduce food waste. Our two biggest projects currently are trying to initiate on-campus



Hometown

Merrimack, NH

Mentor/Advisor

- Drew Brodeur
- Destin Heilman

Achievements

- Charles O. Thompson Scholar
- Herb Beall General Chemistry Award
- Microbial Biofilms REU 2023 Scholar at Binghamton University

Interests

- playing piano
- running
- listening to K-Pop & classical music

composting in the dining halls at WPI, as well as initiating vermicomposting in Greek Life houses. We are working hard to finalize the logistics of these projects and we hope to launch these initiatives this coming spring semester! Green Team is the club I am most passionate about. I love nature and plants and am very passionate about sustainability! This was the first organization I joined at WPI and I love every aspect of it!

In WPI EMS, I volunteer each week, under the WPI Police Department, to assist with any emergency-related calls on campus. It is through EMS that I find a lot of my "people." Most of the friends I meet in EMS are also pre-meds, so it's great to be able to connect with them!

What's your favorite thing about WPI?

The sense of community at WPI is truly something special. Even though there's a bit of competition, the overall atmosphere is incredibly supportive. Everyone here is willing to support and help you. WPI is more than just a place of learning; it's a community that genuinely cares about each other's growth and success.

Also, I love the size of the school. It's big enough to meet new faces every day, but not so huge that I get lost in the crowd. It's cool that I can actually recognize people around campus, which makes the whole college experience feel super friendly.

Do you have a faculty or staff mentor?

Professor Brodeur - He's awesome and sweet! I love coming to his office hours and he has helped advise me on numerous things, like coursework, majors, careers, general advice, etc.

Professor Heilman - He is awesome and super nice! He is the sole reason I switched my major from Biotechnology to Biochemistry because his chem lectures are just amazing and inspiring! He makes chemistry extraordinary and I've always been engaged in every single one of his lectures!

- journaling
- biomedical research
- sustainability

Campus Activities

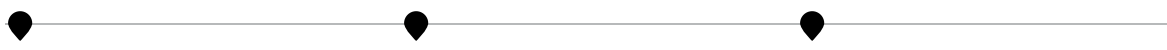
- Green Team
- WPI Emergency Medical Services
- Chemistry lab teaching assistant
- Mu Sigma Delta: Pre-Health Society
- Vietnamese Student Association
- Society of Asian Scientist & Engineers



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How has WPI's project-based learning influenced your education?

Although I didn't take Great Problems Seminar (GPS) in my first year, I am very familiar with project-based learning at WPI. Through my classes and labs, I've worked in groups. Project-based learning teaches you a lot of practical life skills. You'll not always have a shining group all the time but the experiences you learn working with different individuals give you valuable skills in navigating diverse team dynamics and adapting to different working styles, which is what the real world is!



8AM	10AM-12PM	12-1PM
Wake up & breakfast & study	teaching assistant for Chemical Reactions Lab in Goddard Hall	Organic Chemistry I lecture

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