



Stephen A. Wenzel

Durham, North Carolina

stephenawenzel@gmail.com

828-734-4555

View online, interactive resume below:

stephenawenzel.github.io/resume

Education

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bachelor of Science in Biology; Neuroscience & Chemistry Minors (May 2022)
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Tuscola High School

High School Diploma (June 2018)
Waynesville, North Carolina

Experience

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant

09/23/2024 - Present

Duke Department of Ophthalmology
Retina & Glaucoma Division
Main Campus
Durham, North Carolina

I work as a certified ophthalmic assistant in a 20-provider clinic specializing in retinal diseases and glaucoma. I update medical history, perform high-level imaging techniques, comprehensive preliminary eye exams, and visual field testing. I counsel patients prior to procedures such as cataract surgery. General medical assisting duties include cleaning and sterilizing equipment, preparing the clinic for JCAHO inspections, and collaborating with the healthcare team to improve clinic flow and patient experience. I have also trained five new hires.

I provide direct patient care as a certified ophthalmic assistant by refracting patients for glasses prescriptions, preparing them for laser procedures by instilling eye drops, and giving them medications approved by the providers to treat ocular hypertension. I give patients medical advice on how to follow treatment plans better given their physical and mental capabilities. I make changes to clinic protocols to improve clinic flow and triage patients based on their ocular symptoms.

Patient Experience Volunteer

11/20/2024 - Present

Duke University Hospital
Durham, North Carolina

As a patient experience volunteer I directly assist nursing teams in their daily duties on two medical/surgical units. I assist with equipment inventory, patient concierge and counseling services, and help maintain a clean environment. The patients appreciate me as someone who has time to listen, empathize, and help them access resources. I assist the nursing staff with communicating with other units, and I also help facilitate team-building activities among nursing staff.

Photographer

03/1/2016 - Present

Stephen Wenzel Photography
Community, Collaboration, Creativity
Portraits & Nature Photography

I started nature and wildlife photography at 15, which spread to portrait and event photography through volunteering for an international dance festival for three summers. Now, I take on creative projects, offer paid sessions, and serve as a volunteer photographer. I use coding and business skills to develop my brand through “Community, Collaboration, Creativity.” My photography was shown as the main exhibit in the Cultural Center of Cluj-Napoca in Romania, celebrating the interplay between nature, architecture, and light across the American Southeast and my travels in Romania.

Marketing Manager

06/12/2023 - 06/26/2024

Wenzel Facial Plastic Surgery
Clyde, North Carolina

I served as the marketing manager for the facial plastic surgery clinic, doing photography, website development, and social media marketing. I attended facial plastic surgery conferences in Charlotte and Raleigh, and I became familiar with PAs in this field of medicine. I planned and developed the first open house for the practice, coordinating with company representatives, local businesses, and employees of the practice. It included live demonstration of radiofrequency microneedling and other aesthetic procedures.

Medical Assistant

08/14/2023 - 06/26/2024

Western Carolina Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialists, PLLC

Clyde, North Carolina

In a three-provider ENT practice, I worked as a medical assistant in the front office and clinical areas, was the medical scribe for the PA and physicians, and helped maintain the practice's website. In the clinical area, I was responsible for patient triage, EMR data entry, specimen collection and submission, and calling patients. I learned instrument sterilization and assisted directly with in-office surgeries such as endoscopic sinus surgery. On days while I was in the front office, I triaged and checked in patients. I learned about coding, billing, and collections.

Marching Band Assistant & Media Specialist

08/15/2023 - 09/30/2024

Tuscola High School Marching Band

Waynesville, North Carolina

I directly assisted the band director for two marching band seasons with training section leaders and drum majors in essential leadership skills, carrying out their responsibilities, and coordinating the performances. I learned how to convey instructions clearly and motivate people to meet specific goals. I appreciated the value of teamwork and learned team-building skills.

Assistant Scoutmaster Volunteer

Nov. 2022 - Nov. 2023

Boy Scouts of America

Clyde, North Carolina

As a Volunteer Assistant Scoutmaster, I mentored 30 Scouts through rank advancements toward Eagle Scout. I actively participated in monthly district meetings to help with other troops as well as my own. I educated Scouts in a wide variety of topics such as an introduction to chemistry, outdoor ethics, and ways to help their community. I also served as the Photography Merit Badge Counselor for the Daniel Boone Council.

Ophthalmic Assistant

May 2022 - Apr. 2023

Mountain Eye Associates

Clyde, North Carolina

As an ophthalmic assistant, I was the first person to have clinical interaction with patients. I greeted them, updated medical history and performed initial diagnostic testing for all patients. This included high-level imaging techniques, comprehensive preliminary eye exams, and visual field testing. I counseled patients prior to procedures such as cataract surgery. General medical assisting duties included cleaning and sterilizing equipment, maintaining a fully-stocked environment, and collaborating with the healthcare team to improve clinic flow and patient experience.

I generated prescriptions for glasses using results from the standard eye exams that I performed. The final prescriptions were based on my clinical judgement, testing results, and lifestyle factors. I administered eye drops and medications according to clinical procedures. I instructed patients on proper contact lens use and eye care. For glaucoma patients in particular, I measured eye pressures using applanation tonometry and formulated treatment plans with the provider according to the results.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

08/21/2021 - 04/27/2022

Dr. Stephen Rogers's Lab

UNC Chapel Hill Biology Department

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

I investigated mitochondrial movement along acetylated and de-acetylated microtubules in fruit fly stem cells. I designed and completed experiments with the research team using fluorescein microscopy and image analysis using the R programming language. I captured kymographs of mitochondrial movement, tracking displacement to determine velocity and acceleration in response to cancer drug therapies. I reviewed scientific literature to gather relevant information to inform experimental hypotheses and design. I presented findings at the 2021 Fall Undergraduate Research Expo.

Organic Chemistry II Peer Mentor

08/21/2021 - 04/27/2022

UNC Chapel Hill Chemistry Department

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

I taught students during two semesters of a large, second-level organic chemistry course. In addition to practice problems assigned by the professor, I generated question packs to optimize students' understanding. I held weekly recitations where I proctored quizzes, taught material, and promoted active learning among the students.

Undergraduate COVID-19 Testing Volunteer

08/01/2021 - 04/30/2022

Carolina COVID-19 Student Services Corps (CSSC)

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

I served on a team of volunteers and clinic administrators in conjunction with the UNC Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice to provide testing for students and staff of the UNC community during the COVID-19 pandemic. I held clerical roles, explained testing procedures, collected laboratory specimens, and provided resources to mitigate the spread of the virus. This experience has improved upon my values of teamwork and community service.

Activities

Committee Member
Duke MINDs Learn Committee
June 2025 - Present

Patient Experience Volunteer
Duke University Hospital
"2025 Most Supportive Volunteer"
Nov. 2024 - Present

UNC Red Cross Club
Social Media Chair: Aug. 2021 - May
2022
Member: Jan. 2020 - May 2022

Certifications & Awards

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant
American Heart Association
06/11/2025 - 06/11/2028

Basic Life Support (CPR and AED)
American Heart Association
09/27/2024 - 09/27/2026

2025 Volunteer Award
"Most Supportive Volunteer"
Duke Unviersity Hopstia Volunteering Services
02/27/2025

Dean's List
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
05/06/2022

Eagle Scout Award
The Boy Scouts of America
10/16/2017