



Stephen A. Wenzel

Durham, North Carolina

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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

Ophthalmic Assistant (OA)

Sept. 2024 - Present

Duke Department of Ophthalmology
Retina & Glaucoma Division

Main Campus

Durham, North Carolina

- Performs retinal and optic nerve imaging, visual field, cataract biometry testing, and slit lamp exams
- Supports patients with low vision by optimizing testing and documentation
- Assists physicians in high-volume retina and glaucoma clinics
- Manages urgent cases with adaptability
- Maintains infection control by cleaning instruments and preparing rooms
- Volunteers at urban eye screenings, testing vision, checking pressures, and distributing glasses to underserved populations

Patient Experience Volunteer

Nov. 2024 - Present

Duke University Hospital
Durham, North Carolina

- Awarded “2025 Most Supportive Volunteer” by the Duke University Hospital
- Supports patient experience on two hospital units by stocking 32 rooms, providing snacks, assisting with meals, and communicating patient needs to nurses
- Builds rapport with patients through conversation and companionship
- Organizes morale-boosting activities for nurses and serves as a supportive presence during demanding shifts

Photographer

Mar. 2016 - Present

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

- Operates a self-run photography business in portraits and fine art
- Collaborates with clients to create personalized images and edits using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop
- Manages a custom website and oversees all print/digital sales, branding, and social media marketing
- Handles all administrative and financial responsibilities
- Presented an international exhibit in Romania (2024) highlighting cultural themes through light, nature, and architecture

Medical Assistant

May 2023 - June 2024

Western Carolina Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialists
Clyde, North Carolina

- Collected patient vitals, prepared patients for procedures, and scribed for providers
- Assisted as a circulator during in-office procedures and surgeries
- Trained new staff and developed a comprehensive medical assisting guide
- Maintained infection control through instrument sterilization and room prep
- Developed updated clinic manuals and refreshed the practice website
- Supported patient care by assisting with check-ins, answering questions, and ensuring clinic flow

Ophthalmic Assistant

May 2022 - Apr. 2023

Mountain Eye Associates
Clyde, North Carolina

- Performed refractions, retinal and optic nerve imaging, and visual field testing
- Cleaned and sterilized instruments and prepared rooms for exams and procedures
- Educated patients on surgical preparation, risks, and recovery for cataract surgery and laser procedures
- Assisted as a circulator during in-office procedures and surgeries
- Volunteered in rural community screenings, testing vision, checking eye pressures, and distributing donated glasses to underserved populations

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Aug. 2021 - Apr. 2022

Dr. Stephen Rogers's Lab - UNC Chapel Hill Biology Department
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- Served as a hands-on research assistant in a team investigating mitochondrial movement along acetylated and de-acetylated microtubules in fruit fly stem cells
- Designed and executed experimentation and photographic analysis with strict adherence to scientific standards for replicability
- Conducted fluorescence microscopy with a confocal lens to capture kymographs of mitochondrial movement, tracking displacement to determine velocity and acceleration in response to drug therapies
- Reviewed scientific literature to gather relevant information to inform experimental hypotheses and design
- Presented findings at the 2021 Fall Undergraduate Research Expo

Organic Chemistry II Peer Mentor

Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2021 / Jan. 2022 - Apr. 2022

UNC Chapel Hill Chemistry Department
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- Mentored two semesters of a 250-student Organic Chemistry II lecture, helping students deepen their understanding of complex material
- Conducted weekly recitation sessions, utilizing my custom question packets to promote active learning and mastery of concepts
- Collaborated with a team of peer mentors and the professor to improve instructional strategies
- Created tailored study aids, supplemental worksheets, and resources to accommodate diverse learning styles and enhance student success

Undergraduate COVID-19 Testing Volunteer

Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2021 / Jan. 2022 - Apr. 2022

Carolina COVID-19 Student Services Corps
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- Served as a testing volunteer for the Carolina Student Services Corp, a team operating to mitigate challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Chapel Hill community and on campus
- Witnessed the importance of COVID-19 testing to help manage the spread of the pandemic, happily serving to facilitate this process
- Served as a resource on COVID-19 safety practices, keeping up to date on testing and prevention guidelines
- Checked individuals into the clinic, demonstrated testing technique, collected laboratory specimens, sent specimens for PCR testing, and instructed individuals how to obtain results

Online Marketing Assistant

May 2018 - July 2018 / May 2019 - July 2019 / May 2021 - July 2021

Western Carolina Ear, Nose and Throat
Clyde, North Carolina

- Optimized website content to enhance user experience and accessibility for patients seeking medical services
- Developed engaging content aimed for patient education
- Regularly updated the website and social media platforms with new services, office updates, and patient resources

Activities

Patient Experience Volunteer	Visual & Media Coordinator	Scouting Mentor	UNC Red Cross Club
Duke University Hospital	Tuscola High School Marching Band	Boy Scouts of America - Troop 370	Social Media Chair: August '21 - May '22
"2025 Most Supportive Volunteer"	July 2023 - Dec. 2023,	Clyde, North Carolina	Member: Jan. 2020 - May 2022
Nov. 2024 - Present	Aug. 2024 - Sept. 2024	Nov. 2022 - Nov 2023	

Certifications & Awards

Basic Life Support (CPR and AED)	2025 Volunteer Award	Eagle Scout Award
American Heart Association	"Most Supportive Volunteer"	The Boy Scouts of America
Exp. Sept. 2026	Duke Unviersity Hopstial Volunteering Services	Awarded Nov. 2017
	Awarded Feb. 2025	