

TESSA C. BLACK

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am a senior undergraduate student at Utah Valley University on track to graduate in December 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry (with honors). I am driven by a love for the natural world and a passion for learning, particularly in biochemistry and evolutionary biology. I have a research background in protein chemistry, and I will be applying to biochemistry PhD programs following graduation. I am particularly interested in programs emphasizing the evolutionary relationships between proteins, and using those relationships to shed light on the chemical mechanisms underpinning biological problems.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Biology – Chemistry minor

Utah Valley University | GPA 3.95 | Graduating Dec. 2024 with Honors

Research Mentors: Dr. Craig Thulin (biochemistry); Dr. Jessica Cusick (biology and animal behavior)

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

College of Science: Biology Dean's Merit Scholarship | *Utah Valley University* | Fall 2024

Awarded \$1,000 for tuition coverage for the 2024-2025 academic year for excellence in the College of Biology.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Travel Award | *The Protein Society* | July 2024

Awarded \$500 to assist with travel to the Protein Society Conference to present research poster on the midwestern blot

Scholarly Activities Committee Grant | *Utah Valley University* | Fall 2023

Awarded \$2,400 to fund original research project investigating ommochrome-binding proteins in monarch butterfly larvae.

URSCA Dissemination Grant | *Utah Valley University* | Spring 2023

Awarded \$1,500 for travel to Animal Behavior Society Conference in July 2023.

Scholarly Activities Committee Grant | *Utah Valley University* | Spring 2023

Awarded \$1,500 to assist with travel to Animal Behavior Society Conference in July 2023.

UVU Honors Tuition Scholarship | *Utah Valley University* | January 2023-Present

Awarded \$1,000 for tuition coverage each Fall and Spring Semester until graduation.

Dean's List | *Utah Valley University* | Utah | Spring 2021 – Current

Received each Spring and Fall semester for maintaining a high GPA while enrolled full-time in classes.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant | *Utah Valley University* | Orem, UT | Aug 2021 – Present

Worked as a teaching assistant for three semesters of introductory biology for non-majors (Dr. Ashlely Egan, Dr. Heath Ogden), one semester of general chemistry for the health sciences (Dr. Craig Thulin), and three semesters of organic chemistry I (Dr. Young Ham, Dr. Steven Chamberland).

- Prepare and teach 3-4 lessons weekly on advanced chemistry and biology topics to classes of 30+ students.
- Develop study guides for exams and assist students during office hours.
- Communicate with faculty regarding student progress and identify students in need of extra support.
- Grade and provide feedback on assignments for a class of 150+ students.

Medical Assistant | *Premier Family Medical* | Lehi, UT | May 2022 – Aug 2023

Worked as a medical assistant helping both physicians and patients in improving their quality of care.

- Take patient history and record in EMR.
- Add diagnosis codes to patient's chart, order labs, send referrals.
- Take and record patient vitals, including manual blood pressure, respirations, and temperature.
- Administer vaccinations and perform point-of-care testing as directed by physician.

COVID-19 Screener | *BYU Risk Management* | Provo, UT | Feb 2021 – Jul 2021

Screened patrons of the BYU library and miscellaneous students for COVID-19.

- Preform rapid antigen tests for students in a lab setting.
- Interpret, record, and report results of COVID-19 tests.
- Screen Harold B. Lee Library Patrons for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Communicate the significance of screening and preventive measures to members of the university community.

PRESENTATIONS

ϕ Talk, ∞ Poster presentation

Protein Society Conference | 2024

Elucidation of pigment-binding proteins; the development of the midwestern blot ∞

Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research | 2024

Development of the midwestern blotting protocol ϕ

Animal Behavior Society Conference | 2023

Effects of maternal stress and gut microbiome on offspring social behaviors in long-bout stress ∞

LEADERSHIP

Vice President | *Evolution and Bioinformatics Club at UVU* | Orem, UT | Aug 2023 – Present

Secretary | *American Medical Women's Association, UVU Chapter* | Orem, UT | May 2022 – Aug 2023