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**

ɸ 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* ɸ

**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