

## Self-Evaluation

As I conclude my undergraduate studies, looking back I am able to see and appreciate the immense effort I put into my education. As I prepare to leave Alma, I am able to understand the way my time there has contributed to my own self-awareness. Whether it was in classes, the swim team, Active Minds, or jazz and concert bands, each has greatly influenced my understanding of myself.

Spending over seventeen hours in the pool or weight-lifting facility is a large time commitment for anyone, especially on top of being a full-time student. Often times, I reflect on times where practice interfered with my class schedule. I would think of it as an inconvenience to have to get in the pool at six-thirty in the morning in order to put my education first. However, now I realize how lucky I am to have the opportunity to do both. Being a member of the swim team and being a student especially taught me how to be a hard worker and put my mind and heart into everything I do. Active Minds inspired me to help others and myself to understand mental health and spread awareness in order to create a healthy conversation around it. My time in the bands gave me a group to connect and play music with. In total, each activity has greatly shaped who I am as a person and the way I understand different groups of people.

Alma College has granted me numerous opportunities that I didn't realize were possible. I was able to participate in a Service Learning Course in which I was able to help the Gratiot County Community as a part of my education. This opportunity allowed me to apply what I was learning to help the community. Hopefully, the effort made by my class didn't go unnoticed and helped EightCAP reach people in need. Alma College also gave me the opportunity to travel to China through their Spring Term and Venture Grant programs. This allowed me to travel to a

country I would otherwise not likely be able to visit. This allowed me to better understand my own culture as well as others.

As a New Media Studies and Communication double major, I was required to have two internship experiences. I always had a feeling that I would like to end up with a career in higher education or technical writing. My communication internship gave me the opportunity to do both in collaboration with the Alma College Registrar and Provost departments. Although this project was more of the old-style of technical writing, it confirmed my desired career path. My New Media Studies internship, in the Digital Marketing department of the Mid-Michigan's Children Museum, allowed me to utilize the skills I have learned within this major. Although this isn't the route I plan on pursuing, I am grateful for the opportunity that allowed me to apply my New Media skills. Ideally, my technical writing and higher education career paths could incorporate my studies in communication as well as my web development background from New Media Studies.

Overall, my time at Alma College has greatly influenced the way I see myself and the world around me. I also feel it has prepared me well for my next steps in graduate school, as well as beyond in terms of my career plans in higher education or technical writing. Although I am not sure where I will end up, I am confident in myself and my understanding of the field that my Alma College education has granted me.