



CONCORDIA
CONTINUING STUDIES

Kari (Neutzling) Phillips

"My name is Kari (Neutzling) Phillips. I'm a proud 2014 graduate of Concordia and attended medical school at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in Rochester, MN. I am currently a first-year pediatrics resident at Mayo Clinic and plan to pursue pediatric cardiology as my specialty.

I can say without a shadow of a doubt I would not be the doctor I am today (or probably a doctor at all...) if it weren't for the experiences and people I encountered at Concordia. I came to Concordia as a freshman knowing I wanted to be a doctor. From my first day on campus, the coursework, faculty, opportunities, and environment I encountered propelled me toward that goal. My college experience has prepared me incredibly well for medical school and beyond. The liberal arts education at Concordia provided me with a solid bedrock of scientific knowledge but also challenged me to think critically, improve my writing, engage in collaborative learning experiences, and learn how to learn from different people, styles and environments. In particular, the upper-level science courses including Human Anatomy and Physiology (which included a hands-on human cadaver dissection laboratory, a very rare opportunity for undergraduate students), immunology and parasitology, biochemistry, histology, among others, were an outstanding introduction to the science of the body and provided a framework to build on in medical school. Concordia's faculty were invested in our learning and our future. I had multiple faculty mentors who took time to meet with me, talk through career discernment, provide guidance on how to put together a successful medical school application, help with study strategies for the MCAT, and much more. Outside the classroom, Concordia offered the amazing opportunity to engage in research during the academic year and over summer break. This allowed me to more fully understand the process of research design and execution and to gain experience presenting research at regional and national conferences. This was a highlight of my medical school application and definitely set me apart from other applicants.

Beyond any tangible features Concordia offers, the environment on campus is second-to-none for a student interested in pursuing health-related fields. Students at Concordia are driven, selfless, and engaged in their community. I felt encouraged and challenged by my peers to do my best at all times--both academically and in service to others. My peers inspired me to continue to work hard, all in pursuit of the selfless vocation of medicine. In the most challenging of times when exams were looming, papers were due, and caffeine was in short supply, it was the community of friends and peers that kept me motivated and inspired to make it through. This is one feature of Concordia that I believe one would be hard pressed to find in such abundance elsewhere."