

# Final Reflection on My Summer 2023 Enrichment Experience at the University of Michigan

*By Myra Anderson*

This summer at University of Michigan I learned about patience, perseverance, and the importance of education. These lessons were taught to me through interactions with my peers, TA's and my professor. The Anatomy course made me realize my love for anatomy and learning about the human body. The class was certainly a good introduction to college level work. We completed a semester's material over the span of two weeks. Granted, not everything was in full detail as a semester of Anatomy would be, but there was still a lot of information to cover. I felt challenged in many ways but in some ways I still felt like I could have been pushed a little more. Content-wise, it was a large amount of information which made it difficult to retain everything. At the same time, I wished there was more assignment-type stuff. I feel like I would have had an easier time memorizing the information. Although we weren't required day to day to have memorized the information, our presentations at the end of the program helped us memorize certain information and I believe it was a good learning experience. I was also able to receive feedback from the TA's and they helped us structure our presentations. This constructive criticism helped us develop our presentation skills and we were able to be professional and accomplish them in a college-level manner. Throughout the course, I got to work with the TAs in different ways. Through small group discussions, dissections, and one-on-one, I got feedback that helped me retain the knowledge. The TAs were incredibly smart and encouraging. They also did rotations on teaching lessons. I appreciated that we got to learn in different ways, because each had their own styles of teaching that were distinguishable and had their own benefits. I also loved getting to learn from our professor. She was so encouraging and passionate about what she was doing. I respect her dedication to her students.

Spending two weeks around people that love learning as much as I do was not only refreshing, but it was a surreal moment. That was a new experience that I didn't get in my other high school classes. I got to nerd out over the dissections and the human anatomical donors. I loved getting hands-on experience with what we were learning and it helped me connect with the information. I found it helpful that we spent time identifying parts on models or the donors. My most favorite dissection was the pig kidney. This was just a random interest of mine that I picked up and I was excited to be able to point out the parts of what I was observing. Another part of our dissections was the human anatomical donors and the Anatomage table. The plastinated donors was something that I would never get at a high school and it was memorable. The anatomage table was just a great example of how technology can help us learn and gather information. The system was really neat and most definitely useful.

One main takeaway that I got from the course was guidance on what I potentially may follow as a career. Before I attended MMSS, I was leaning towards being an Oncologist, but after discussing college with the TA's and taking the class, I am now leaning away from medical school. I just do not think it is what I truly want to pursue and I am considering being a professor. I enjoy teaching others and helping them, but more specifically I want to teach at a University that has research I can participate in. I love studying new things and working in a lab. Although I am still not completely driven away from being a doctor, I am now looking into the idea of teaching at a university. I find the medical field to be my main area of interest and learning about the human body and modern medical technology is amazing. I still want to follow

a path of science in whatever I may do. I feel that MMSS was an experience that I really needed and it helped me find out what I loved. I am so thankful for this experience and I am really encouraged to apply next year to new programs and to look into other areas I may love. This has been a game changer for me and my academics and it has made me more motivated to work harder and achieve new levels of success. I intend to push myself even further and conquer harder courses and new material.

Along with the academic experience, I absolutely fell in love with Ann Arbor and UMICH's campus. The weather was incredible and the town was so lively. There were so many shops downtown and I got to visit a few of them. The college experience that I received was rather accurate. I got to spend time in my dorm studying and time around campus, hanging out with friends and having fun. My favorite thing that we did in downtown Ann Arbor was getting boba tea. I love boba and getting to try new shops was fun. My friend and I also explored some thrift stores and other local places. The campus was actually gorgeous and getting to learn about the opportunities they offer makes me want to apply there for college. UMich offers an incredible research facility and they offer a good medical program. The TA's said that they highly recommend getting involved in labs at college. They provide good work experience and help expand knowledge.

The residential experience went well and I felt prepared for being independent. I see myself as an independent person and I believe that I have strong problem-solving skills that helped me to be on my own. I got a great college experience and I spent time in the common rooms and I even got to check out some of the study rooms that the university has. I ran into small issues like using the laundry room and I had to troubleshoot some issues for my friends and other residential students. I had to determine the best time to shower, this was a big part of the daily college experience. The dining hall was good, and provided a decently large assortment of foods. They served pizza everyday but along with that they had many different styles of food. I personally enjoyed their Pico De Gallo and another favorite of mine was beef stir fry. The fact that they had good food increased my enjoyment of the camp. They even had a soft serve machine and I really enjoy ice cream. The most difficult part of the residential life was the distance to the class. Our class was held in the medical school building on the north side of campus while our dorms and dining hall were on the southwest side of campus. It was a 20-minute walk, if you were speed walking, but other than that we luckily had the option to use the University bus. I believe this gave me some good life skills of time management and independence. We were recommended by our TAs to arrive at the bus stop 30 minutes before we had to be somewhere. After a couple missed stops and near tardiness, I got the hang out the bus rides. This made me feel accomplished and experienced.

I would recommend this to GFF students, especially students who are new to independent experiences like this. It is a different atmosphere than a high school and I feel that it was overall more professional. Despite the challenges that I faced I believe that MMSS could have been a more difficult program. For older or more advanced students in GFF, it might be a better option to complete another course. Although, I cannot speak upon the other courses at Michigan. I feel like they could have expected a little bit more out of us in the Anatomy course. One thing that brings me to recommend MMSS is the diversity of people there. In my class alone, I had a girl from Peru, students from South Korea, and a few people from Greece. Getting to interact with them was unlike anything I have ever experienced. I loved getting to know them and working with them. There was a slight language barrier, but we were able to overcome it. Another aspect that makes me recommend this course was the campus itself. The University of Michigan is a

large campus and it is in a thriving community. This is an experience that I have never seen before especially because of the college campuses close to me. Although Ann Arbor is not a big city, it is full of so many people and the area really “comes to life” as you explore it.

After all that has been said, I cannot be more grateful for the opportunity to attend MMSS. Despite some hardships or moments that I felt I could have worked harder. This camp has given me so many good things. I am so glad that I was able to narrow down my main interests and choices of careers. I met some people there that I will be friends with for years to come and I am thankful for that. This was truly an amazing experience and an academically challenging experience that has molded me into a better person. This camp has given me new motivation and I cannot wait to find other academic opportunities out there.