

Audrey Thomas – Class of 2017

Audrey on the first day of her third year which begins the professional phase of her program.

Talk a little about your college experience.

I am attending The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY. I am in a five-year accelerated Physician Assistant Program and minoring in Exercise Science. At completion of the 5-year program, I will graduate with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies. I will graduate in May 2022 and then will sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) before I will be able to practice as a PA. One of my favorite things about my college experience includes being able to get hands on experiences in the hospital with patients practicing the skills I have been working on for so long. Additionally, I have enjoyed being able to broaden my horizons, experience a new place and meet incredible people.

What are you currently doing from a career or education standpoint?

I am currently in my last year of classes before I start my clinical rotations. In May 2021, I will receive my short white coat, indicating that I am a practicing Physician Assistant Student (PA-S). I will then complete 10 different 5-week rotations in varying medical specialties in the Rochester and, hopefully, State College areas. After successful completion of these rotations, I will graduate in May of 2022 with my Bachelor's and Master's in Physician Assistant Studies and receive my long white coat indicating that I will be a Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C) after passing the PANCE.

What are some of your favorite things you like to do in your personal time?

The fall of my freshman year (2017), I joined Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) which is one of the 5 sororities on RIT's campus. During my time in Zeta, I have met some of the most incredible people and those that will be lifelong friends. In my free time, I enjoy getting more involved within my sorority and exploring the Rochester area. Since becoming a student at RIT, I have learned to enjoy hockey. RIT is a big hockey school and sometimes in my free time I enjoy taking part in the RIT tradition of attending hockey games and sitting in the Corner Crew which is RIT's version of the student section.

How did Saint Joe's impact you? And how are you using the things you learned at Saint Joe's today?

Saint Joe's gave me the confidence and tools to always keep achieving more and never stop reaching for the things I want for myself. St. Joe's was a welcoming and supportive environment that allowed me to grow and flourish into a better scholar, leader, servant and disciple before adventuring into a new and unfamiliar environment. Having the opportunity to focus on my core values in high school, allowed me to stay strong in my beliefs while starting the next chapter of my life. I am frequently reminded of the lessons I have learned at St. Joe's and am forever grateful that I was able to have those experiences and carry the lessons I learned in my high school years into my everyday life at college years later.

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about one day being able to provide high quality medical care to those who need it the most. Every day, I strive to learn more and do more in hopes of being able to positively affect more people with the work I am doing. I am also passionate about always being a lifelong learner and always having the desire to educate myself. My family and friends are those who give me encouragement and remind me every day to strive for more. I am passionate about representing my family, friends and the Saint Joe's community as an Alumni well.

One of your favorite quotes or Bible verses:

Philippians 4: 13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

