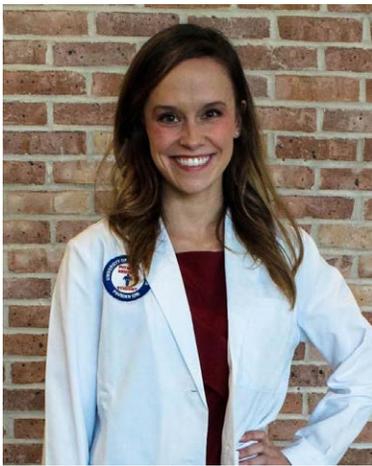


ALABAMA AHEC

Southern Alabama AHEC

"Education, Healthcare, and Jobs"
March 30, 2016

SAAHEC "Student" Spotlight



Kayla Travis is a Physician Assistant student at the University of South Alabama. She is 24 years old and was born in Spanish Fort, AL. Kayla received her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science from Auburn University in 2014. She loves learning medicine and everything about being a PA in a nation that needs healthcare services more than ever. Kayla is excited to begin working in the field shortly after graduation in July 2016. See below for a short interview with Kayla.

Why did you enter the healthcare field?

I've had an interest in medicine since I was very young. I have found it intriguing and rewarding to have a career where you continuously get to learn new things. And in doing so, you get to witness the gratitude behind the job by interacting with patients of various backgrounds. I believe our nation greatly needs healthcare providers who are genuine, and can allow patients to feel like they are in good hands. The opportunity to become a Physician Assistant stood out to me, in the role that they play as a midlevel between supervising physicians and patients. PAs give patients the opportunity to build a relationship with their providers, and that is what has drawn me to enter the healthcare field.

What has your experience at Monroe County Hospital been like?

Monroe County Hospital gave me the opportunity to interact with patient populations who do not have adequate access to healthcare. They are 90 minutes from a hospital with access to things such as a Cardiac Cath Lab if a patient is having a heart attack. Everything I was taught in school about treatment plans, and first-line studies to order was put into question as the supply did not meet the demands, and I learned to use critical thinking skills. The staff was wonderful and very welcoming at Monroe County Hospital.

What was your favorite part about your rotation in Monroeville?

I would have to say my favorite thing about staying in Monroeville, AL was being about 100 steps from the ER door to my bedroom! As a busy student always

studying, and working long shifts I need all the sleep I can get, and the convenience of it was such a blessing these last 4 weeks so thank you, AHEC! I also have to say that the cafeteria staff was so nice, the food was great, and they always had the warmest greetings.

How was SAAHEC able to assist you?

SAAHEC has been wonderful throughout my clinical year as a PA student. Before I knew it, they were reaching out to me to aid me in my rotations by setting up housing or aiding in travel reimbursements. As a student, it can be very difficult to find the funds to complete rotations outside of Mobile, AL. SAAHEC gave me the opportunity to complete my Emergency Medicine rotation in a rural setting where I was exposed to a variety of patient populations, which further enhanced my education and knowledge of how our country needs adequate healthcare everywhere today.

SAAHEC is extremely happy to assist health profession students like Kayla with their clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas. We wish you the best in the future, Kayla!
