



Calvin Davis

Eastern Oregon University

Age: 22

Year: Senior

Major: Chemistry, Geology minor

Goal: to use his Chemistry/Geology degree through a combination of fieldwork and research

Having grown up in Sandy, Oregon in the shadow of the Portland-Metropolitan area, Calvin Davis was anxious to pursue his college education in the sciences in a more rural location. Calvin was the first in his immediate family to attend college, and his parents always emphasized that it would allow him greater options in life. EOU offered small rigorous science departments, accessible professors, and a wide range of natural areas in which could pursue his minor, geology, while enjoying the outdoors. Calvin started as a biology major, thinking he would transfer to OSU for fish and wildlife studies. However, the dynamic problem-solving and conceptualization challenges of chemistry caught his interest, and quite soon after entering EOU, he realized his field. He has clearly found a home for his ambitions in the EOU Chemistry Department, where as a senior in college he has already completed a two-summer internship with a research professor, worked as a TA in undergraduate lab courses, and tutored beginning students. "It keeps me brushed up on lower level courses and material I may not have used in a long time." He felt well-prepared for college chemistry by taking high school advanced placement courses, and his high-achievement in high school earned him Eastern's University Scholarship, which covers tuition for all four years. Even with the scholarship, though, he has taken out approximately \$20,000 in loans for living expenses, as his demanding lab schedule and homework made it impossible for him to work off-campus. For now, he is enjoying an academically rigorous life, and credits part of his success to the accessibility of his instructors: "It makes college level chemistry a lot easier when you know you can ask questions directly to your professors. I think of my professors more as colleagues and friends than teachers." After graduation, he hopes to find a job that combines research and fieldwork, possibly in environmental chemistry or agriculture, and he is optimistic that the right option will be there.