



Lisa Deskin

Oregon State University, previously dual enrolled at PCC/OSU

Age: 29

Year: Senior

Major: Bio-resource Research, double minor in Toxicology and Chemistry

Goal: to research and monitor man-made pollutants

Lisa Deskin is performing state-of-the-art research at Oregon State University on man-made contaminants found in conifers under the guidance of a faculty member. However, the route to Lisa's current position was anything but direct. Lisa weathered turbulent adolescent years, and once she earned her GED, had to wait to start college until she was twenty-four to qualify for financial aid. As a dependent student, her family didn't qualify, nor did they have resources to support her. Now, even with the help of grants and scholarships, she will accumulate nearly \$30,000 in student loan debt by graduation. The good news is Lisa is confident that she will be employable in her field of bio-resource research after graduation. Having to work low-wage jobs after high school motivated Lisa to find out exactly what she wanted to do with her education. She started at a community college knowing that her ultimate intention was to achieve a four-year degree. Community college allowed her the time to thoroughly explore her academic interests and possible majors. After an internship at the Department of Energy, Lisa discovered her field; she knew that she wanted to perform resource research, and knew what to expect from the work. When she was ready to make the transition to OSU, she decided on dual enrollment which helped "facilitate her transfer more easily, allowing for the best communication between PCC and OSU" regarding her educational path. By the time she entered OSU, Lisa was absolutely sure of her long-term goals, and is now able to take initiative through high-level research and multi-disciplinary coursework to truly make the most of a large research institution.