



Samantha Woodhouse
Oregon Institute of Technology

Age: 20

Year: Senior

Major: Health Sciences

Goal: To become a Pharmacist

In high school, Samantha "Sam" Woodhouse worked for years at the local hardware store in the farming community of Merrill, Oregon, where she knew virtually everyone who walked in the door. Her experience at Oregon Institute of Technology has allowed her to pursue her ambitious academic goals while maintaining the intimacy of a small community, with her family just 20 miles down the road. She originally thought she would attend Oregon State University, but was drawn to OIT because of a generous scholarship offer and its familiarity. She actually started taking classes at OIT in high school, where she received joint high school and college credit for OIT coursework. After a career exploration project including a "clinical rotation" job-shadowing opportunity in high school, she saw what the day-to-day work of a Pharmacist entailed, and firmly decided on her career. Samantha's early focus has allowed her to maintain an efficient, focused, approach to her educational goals. Sam calls the OIT health science program "amazing," and raves about the small classes and accessibility of the professors: "When one of the 14 or so students in the class is confused, we can immediately ask the teacher to clarify and he or she can explain right there." Unlike many students, Samantha has been able to accelerate her education, and will finish her undergraduate degree in only three years. For her graduate studies, she has been accepted under early-decision to the College of Pharmacy at OSU, and will move to Corvallis with her soon-to-be husband who is in the armed forces and currently stationed in Iraq. Samantha tells the remarkable story about the fact that her student advisor at OIT actually called her before the first day of school just to wish her a good first day at the college: "I mean, at how many places does that happen?" she asks. Three years later, and with a GPA of 3.98, she has clearly had more than one good day.