

TYLER PARSONS

PH.D. IN BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Why did you decide to go to Graduate School?

With my career goals I knew that I would have to go to graduate school, and with this degree I will have a lot of options when I graduate.

Why did you decide to go to OU?

I came to OU for a few reasons, though the collaboration with Beaumont Hospital was one of the biggest. My dissertation is with Beaumont itself. I also came here because of the faculty members and my mentor. In my program mentors are incredibly important, you need to have an intimate relationship with them, so it was crucial to me that I found someone I could learn from.

What is your favorite part of being an OU Graduate student?

My coworkers are my favorite part of being an OU student. They are down to Earth, and I enjoy their company outside of our lab. I am able to have friendships with them, while still maintaining a good work relationship.

Do you have any advice for those applying to your program?

Get involved, don't just isolate yourself or become a slave to your project. You won't have the opportunity after you graduate, so do it now while you have the time. If you don't see what you want here on campus, go out and create it.

Do you have any advice for future TA's?

Don't be intimidated by your students. There will be some geniuses in your class, but don't let it get to you. Be humble and connect with your students, help them as best you can. Maintain the balance of being in charge, but remember that you are still their peer.