

# Student Spotlight

## Rachel Gordon - Human Biology Major/Chemistry Minor

### Why did you choose to attend UWGB?

UWGB had always been on the top of my list of schools I wanted to attend for my undergraduate degree because of its perfect distance from home, not too far but far enough, and of course its great dorms and student life. However, what really solidified my decision to choose UWGB was a tour of the biology department and program given by Dr. Merkel during the winter of my senior year of high school. Dr. Merkel walked me through the laboratories and showed me the great learning resources that UWGB has to offer. He took the time to discuss interesting classes offered at UWGB, internship opportunities in the area, and as we walked through a few research labs he talking about the fascinating research projects going on and the awesome student-faculty relationships that form here at UWGB. I learned three essential things about UWGB that day. First, the biology and human biology department here is amazing. Secondly, the faculty, like Dr. Merkel, is always willing to help and offer advice and opportunities for growth and learning. Finally, I learned that I was hooked; UWGB was the place for me.



### Who is your favorite professor or staff member and why?

This past spring semester I took Dr. Merkel's Human Disease and Society class and loved it. I really enjoyed the material so much so that my summer reading list has mostly comprised of books about infectious disease and pandemics (current favorite: *Spillover* by David Quammen). Dr. Merkel is an awesome professor, who you can tell is passionate about what he does. He makes the material understandable and interesting. Dr. Merkel is always willing to answer questions or offer advice and is a great advisor. I am really looking forward to having microbiology and starting research this fall semester with him.

### What is your favorite study spot?

Common Grounds Coffeehouse on campus is the perfect study spot for me. It has the perfect size tables to spread out all my books and notes, my rainbow of highlighters, and stacks of flashcards. I love the big windows to be able to see the fall colors, snow fly in winter, and feel the warmth of the spring sunshine. Finally, coffee always helps, right?



### What are three things you have with you at all times?

Student ID, a good book, and coffee.

### What is your plan after graduation?

I have two more years here at UWGB and then it is on to medical school for me to follow my interests in cardiology and pathology. I have a huge passion for the science of the human body, the medical field and helping others and can't wait to see where the future takes me.