

Alexis Poindexter, Winner of the Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First Generation College Student

By Reiko Simmons, Director of Student Awards

The Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First Generation College Student recognizes excellence in Chemistry by a senior woman undergraduate who is the first generation of her family to attend college. The 2023 winner of this award is Alexis Poindexter. Alexis was nominated by Professor Sarah L Goh of Williams College.

Alexis states in her Personal Statement that the societal condition in Baltimore Maryland where she grew up became her “defining motivation” to study Biochemistry. She continued to describe her college experience, from one year to the next, and from one summer to the following in terms of her research opportunities. Despite the challenges of COVID-related restrictions, Alexis was able to take full advantage of the following opportunities: Summer Science Program (SSP) at Williams College (Pre-College), Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Rochester (2 summers starting after the Sophomore year), a summer program at Memorial Sloan Kettering (after junior year), and the Intensive, research oriented lab section at Williams College (Spring 2021). The strong accolades from all writers of letters of support indicate her extraordinary ability to overcome challenges, expand and broaden her knowledge and skills in the areas of research in Biochemistry.

According to her nominator, Alexis has been awarded a prestigious Donovan-Moody Fellowship from the Williams College, and she will be undertaking a MSc in Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Oxford.