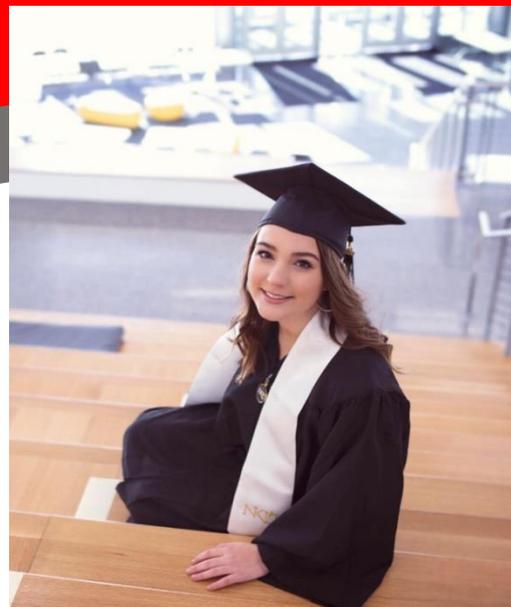


Morgan Sydnor Pendleton County High School Class of 2016

Morgan is a graduate of Pendleton County High School and Northern Kentucky University Class of 2019. She was a member of the honors program and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Morgan was one of five students admitted to the first UK College of Medicine Early Assurance Program which was designed to create a clear pathway for students in medical school. Once accepted Morgan was assured admission to the UK College of Medicine/NKU Campus.



Where did you attend school?

Northern Elementary, Phillip Sharp Middle School, Pendleton County High School, Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky-College of Medicine (currently attending)

Highlight: Travelling abroad to shadow physicians in Lisbon, Portugal. I did this during the summer between my sophomore and junior year at NKU and recommend travelling abroad for anyone who might be considering it. I not only was able to learn about what specific physician specialists do daily, but I was also able to see how my life at home compared to life in Portugal. I travelled to nearby cities on the weekend, tried new food, saw amazing sights, and got to take part in activities (like surfing!) that I will likely never have the opportunity to do again. Above all, I made life lasting friendships with other pre-med students who I still talk to almost daily, some of which are even my classmates in medical school today.

What aspects of your public education helped mold you into the person you are today?

Being able to encounter all sorts of diversity. This exposure has helped me to develop communication and interpersonal skills that have made me successful in my professional and personal life. I am more open minded to learning about new ideas or ideas that are different than my own. I have become more empathetic when talking to others that are in situations that varying from what I have experienced. These are priceless traits that helped me to embrace those that are different from me and thereby gaining a better understanding of what the world is really like. The most important trait I have gained from experiencing such diversity is becoming more unbiased. Instead of judging a book by its cover, I am growing to listen and to speak kindly.

Being able to sample from many topics. I have always enjoyed science and math growing up and that has stayed true as I am currently in my first year of medical school. Taking general foundation courses in subject areas beyond math and science, however, have been essential in my development of other skills not related to understanding how the body works. It has also helped me to know what some of my other interests are like learning a new language, playing the piano, and learning to cook. Being able to sample a little bit from varying subject matters throughout my education journey has made me more of a well-rounded individual.

When you think back on your experience in public school, are there specific instances or relationships that stand out to you as having had a significant impact on your success since graduating?

The schools and programs I have attended have had a relatively small number of students and this made making meaningful relationships slightly easier. In high school, there were many teachers I grew to be close with and felt comfortable enough to seek their advice or help outside of the classroom. Throughout undergrad, these relationships grew into mentorships. This was particularly impactful in my success as I was able to ask these past teachers of mine for letters of recommendation; I was able to become an Ambulatory Pharmacy Technician and a member of the Honors College at NKU due to these letters. In addition to the relationships I have made with my professors, the friendships I have made throughout school have been some that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

As a product of public education, what advice would you give to a parent who was choosing an education path for their child?

When researching educational paths for your children, the public education system will best equip them to best handle the real world. Overall, I feel the education they receive will be comparable to what they would receive at most other schools. The advantage of attending a public school is the diversity a person will experience, even from a young age, making them a well-rounded individual in many aspects of their lives. As a student who has attended only public institutions all of my life, I can personally say that a public school educated individual is no less deserving of success. No matter a person's educational journey or how "inheritably smart" someone may seem, a strong effort is what will make a person successful.

As a product of public schools what drives you to give back to your local school and/or district?

A sense of home is deeply integrated in the way I was educated. Many educators left to obtain a secondary education and then came back to teach future generations of their community. Many professors I had at NKU were originally from the area who had too gone to seek education somewhere else to only return to continue educating the next generation of this community. At the end of the day I think most people want to see their town succeed and improve and a great way to do this is by using your skills to give back to the people that helped make you into who you are today.