

Theresa Chapa

Chemical Engineering
Polymer Specialization

Hometown: North Canton, OH

Professional/Student Organizations:

- American Institute of Chemical Engineers – Vice President
- Tau Beta Pi – Webmaster
- Newman Catholic Campus Ministry (RooCatholic)
- Chemistry Club

Co-op/Research Experience

- 4 Rotations at PolyOne Corp. Specialty Engineered Materials Division, Avon Lake Facility



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

My high school participated in many engineering/STEM related events hosted by UA and the College of Engineering. I attended quite a number of these events to the point where Akron felt like home. I also like the student/faculty ratio. With the smaller class sizes as compared to other universities, I am a person and not just a number in the crowd. This made it easier to meet upperclassmen who were able to give me advice and support in so many ways. The co-op program at UA is also very respectable, providing students with many opportunities to gain real life experience in our respective fields.

Why did you choose Chemical Engineering as your major?

I ended up choosing chemical engineering on a whim when applying for colleges due to my love for chemistry and the desire to become an engineer. I really didn't know what I was getting myself into, but after my first semester freshman year, I couldn't see myself as any other major.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

Get involved! And I don't just mean in engineering-related student organizations. Find a group that shares a favorite hobby or past time because you are going to want to take a break from all things engineering and school-related. Also, when a company is looking for prospective hires, they love to talk about the "other little things" you like to do.

What resources were provided at the University of Akron to help you succeed as an engineering student?

The UA and The College of Engineering offers FREE tutoring to students. Not only are tutors able to help answer questions pertaining to course materials (even my chemical engineering courses), they also have practice exams and quiz questions. Did I mention it was FREE?!