

Nicholas Potts Schmidt

Corrosion Engineering
Chemistry and Business for Engineering Minors

Hometown: Medina, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:

- Corrosion Squad (Student NACE Chapter)
- Tau Beta Pi
- Emerging Leaders
- Akron Navigators Bible Study

Co-op/Research Experience

- The Lubrizol Corporation (Metalworking Department)
- Dr. Qixin Zhou's coatings lab



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

One of the major reasons I chose the University of Akron is because it is home to the only undergraduate Corrosion Engineering program in the country. I also received a very generous scholarship from the Honors College. The people that attend the University of Akron are also quite personable and down to earth, which was another plus for me.

Why did you choose Corrosion Engineering as your major?

I first heard about Akron's Corrosion Engineering program in my high school chemistry class, though I was initially more interested in Chemical Engineering. When I found out that the Corrosion and Chemical Engineering curricula had a lot in common, I decided to pursue Corrosion Engineering due to the program's unique nature. So far I have found the program to be challenging and rewarding; I am glad I chose Corrosion Engineering.

What is the most valuable thing that the College of Engineering has taught you?

The most valuable lesson I was taught by the College of Engineering is that nothing in the real world is static or "by-the-book." I learned this in Project Management and Teamwork (PMT), a group project class that all Chemical and Corrosion Engineering students take every fall semester. In PMT, all of the students are divided into about twenty groups (each with a couple of seniors, a few juniors, several sophomores, and about ten freshmen) that are tasked with completing a complex project by the end of the semester. Over the course of the semester, students have to collaborate to work through the difficulties that arise due to the dynamic nature of the project. During my Co-op terms, I have realized that this ever-changing nature of work is ubiquitous in industry. Learning to deal with this properly is the most valuable thing I've learned from PMT and the College of Engineering.