Kaitlyn Mawhinney is currently studying to earn her doctorate in Polymer Engineering under Dr. Sadhan Jana. Read more about Kaitlyn and her academic journey in CPSPE.

**How does your major fit into your life’s plan?**
When I was an undergraduate student and making decisions about my future career, I knew I wanted to work in Research and Development. I thought it was incredibly interesting to have the ability to create something new or to improve existing products. Working towards a PhD in Polymer Engineering will help me to move into the position to be able to work in R&D.

**Why did you choose The University of Akron, specifically the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering?**
I completed my Bachelor's degree in Materials Science and Engineering, where I studied a variety of materials but really became interested in polymers. I chose to come to the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at The University of Akron because I liked the idea of an entire college focused solely on studying and researching polymers, and UA has a globally recognized program dedicated to this goal.

**Tell us about your experience in an internship or research project.**
After my first year here at Akron, I was given the opportunity to study for 6 weeks at the IFP School in Paris, France. It was an incredible opportunity where I was able to expand my knowledge base, as well as interact and network with students from all over the world who were working for some of the top polymer companies.

**Who is your favorite professor (or staff person) and why?**
My favorite staff person in CPSPE is Deb Wilhite. She is always so friendly and willing to help students with any issues they have. I definitely appreciate all that she does for our department to ensure that things run smoothly.

**What are your plans after graduation?**
After graduation, I want to go into industry and work for a company that tests and develops medical devices. I have always been interested in the idea of studying and working on biomedical materials, as they have the potential to better the condition of people's lives. Working in a R&D department improving these devices would be very fulfilling for me.