

Erika Howard

Civil Engineering

Applied Mathematics Minor & Spanish Minor

Hometown: Hudson, Ohio

Professional/Student Organizations:

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Steel Bridge Design Team
- Tau Beta Pi

Co-op/Research Experience

- CESO, Inc.
- Environmental Design Group



Why did you choose the University of Akron?

When applying for schools, I knew that I wanted to stay within the state of Ohio and I wanted to attend an accredited university. From there, I applied to six schools, and I ended up choosing The University of Akron based on its proximity and engineering programs. Between the design teams and the co-op program, I knew Akron was the place where I could get the most out of my education.

Why did you choose Civil Engineering as your major?

I have always enjoyed math and science in school. In 8th grade, we went on a field trip in my Art Technologies class to downtown Cleveland, Ohio. We saw different architectural designs and I thought architecture would be an interesting career. However, I discovered that while I loved the design of the buildings, I was more interested in the science and mathematics behind them. That is how I found civil engineering as a career.

What is the most valuable thing you have learned from your UA experiences?

The most valuable thing I have learned from my experiences at UA is that you should never be afraid to ask questions. Seeking out help through office hours and visiting open tutoring sessions has helped me understand several difficult concepts. Additionally, building relationships with professors through office hour visits has helped me to become a better engineer. By doing this, I have been able to create this network of professional mentors that I can go to for not only academic help, but career advice as well.

What advice would you give to an incoming engineering student?

Get involved! You will meet people with similar interests to yours. Additionally, the members of many organizations will end up being mentors for you, and a great source for advice.