

“IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU CAN DO IT” SAYS BIOSCI'S YOUNGEST 2021 GRAD



Like many 2021 School of Biological Sciences graduates, Kylie Munson is taking the MCATs and applying to medical school. She is also planning to put her skills and energy to good use by volunteering. Unlike the others in her class, though, Munson is 15 years old.

Her fast journey to a bachelor of science in biology began at a young age. As soon as she could read, she was drawn toward books and other material on the life sciences. When she was 11, the Santa Clarita resident added part-time studies at Los Angeles Mission College to her Orange County Sage Oak High School coursework. After earning an associate degree and graduating from high school concurrently, she enrolled in UCI BioSci at the age of 13!

“I liked the overall vibe at UCI,” she said of her decision to become an Anteater. “It felt more like a community than other universities I considered.” A competitive cheerleader for many years, Munson joined the UCI Spirit Squad. During her time on campus, the age gap between her and other students was never an issue. “I didn’t really notice it. I didn’t feel very different from everyone else. I’ve always been around older people.”

She relished her academic experience at BioSci. “It was demanding and a lot of work,” she said. “But if you put in the work, you will be successful.” Biochemistry was among her favorite subjects and she particularly enjoyed organic chemistry. Munson weathered the transition when the pandemic necessitated shifting from in-person courses to online learning, but says she preferred being in the classroom.

Receiving her BioSci diploma “is a huge accomplishment for me,” she said. She hopes her achievement can inspire others to pursue their dreams. “If you believe in yourself, you can do it.”

While she is busy working toward the next phase of her life, Munson does have a short-term goal. “I want to spend some time hanging out with my friends and going to the beach. I’d like to be a teenager for a while.”