

# *Madison*

## *Future Veterinarian*



My name is Madison, and I am from Buchanan County, Virginia. I'm majoring in biology at Alice Lloyd College, and my hope is to attend graduate school to become a veterinarian. My love of and compassion for animals led me to this major and career path. Even though it may take a few years, I hope to give back to my community by providing a local and affordable option for their pet's health.

I am a first-generation college student and feel extremely blessed to be so. My parents struggled growing up, and neither were able to attend college. They worked hard for me to have this opportunity, and I am deeply grateful.

My parents and aunt are the backbone of everything I do. My dad had a car wreck in his twenties which resulted in a broken neck and becoming paralyzed from the waist down. He learned to walk again and lived a great life for a while. As he has gotten older, everyday life has continued to become more and more difficult. He is now on oxygen and in a wheelchair full-time. My mother, who previously worked as a nurse, had to quit her job to take care of him, so there are essentially no funds coming in. With rising prices, this is becoming increasingly difficult. I do not think anyone in my family predicted the current hardships. This is a big reason why I chose to continue my education at ALC. I will be able to graduate with no debt.

Alice Lloyd is a great school for someone like me who is from a small, rural area. The work-study program is wonderful. Before coming here, I had never held a job before. My assignment is in Miss Irma's Cafe, and I absolutely love it. I get along well with everyone there, and I've already learned much about what it takes to be in the workforce. My plans for the future are to return to Buchanan County and be a servant leader to the people of that area. I loved my small high school and the close connections that everyone had with one another. That feeling of having a second family is one of the biggest reasons that I chose Alice Lloyd College. My family has tried their best to ensure that I would have what they did not, and anything I can do to make sure they are not struggling is a blessing. I would like to thank you for your generosity.