

ACI Scholar Paris Edwards, Augustana College

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Paris Edwards studies graphic design and video editing, dreaming of the day when he is a Web designer. Edwards arrived at ACI member [Augustana College](#) from Tulsa, Oklahoma three years ago and became a graphic design major, a subject he learned to appreciate when he was a student at Tulsa's Thomas Edison High School.

"I chose graphic design because I like to create, and I like to draw," he says. "I also want to get into video editing, because it's creating something. Having people see my art – that's amazing, and that's pretty cool."

Edwards says he doesn't have a minor, but if he did, it would be psychology. Why? In previous classes on the subject, he was fascinated with how the human brain works and how it develops, particularly in adolescents.

What brought Edwards to Augustana from Oklahoma was the smaller, liberal arts atmosphere of the college, plus its academic opportunities. "The main reason is that I liked the professors here. I see my professors once or twice a week, and talk to them about how classes are going or how I need to better myself in class," he says. Another factor in Edwards' decision to attend Augustana was a "good group" of friends, he says, with whom he joined a fraternity, Beta Omega Sigma.

Edwards' has stayed on track with his college education thanks, in part, to a \$2,600 scholarship FIHE/UPS scholarship awarded him. The scholarship enables Edwards to register for future classes early because the funds help him demonstrate that he has the tuition money in hand. "With the help of this scholarship, I can register on time and get the classes I need for my major," Edwards says. Without the scholarship, Edwards would have to wait until many of his preferred classes are filled and make the best of the classes that remain. "Getting through college would be more difficult," he explains.

A junior, Edwards is also a busy athlete at Augustana, where he is a running back on the football team. This year, he plans to run short sprints on Augustana's track team, including 100- and 200-meter races, and the 4 x 100 sprint competition.

How does he stay in shape? Besides running and working out in the weight room, Edwards like to dance. He and friends have successfully competed in talent shows and dance competitions. "It also helps me on the football field with balance, and helps me avoid getting knocked over a lot," he adds.