



Tajania Jenkins
Augustana College
ACI General Scholarship



Tajania Jenkins has a passion for science. Specifically, pathology – what causes diseases and their effects. This fall, Jenkins will be a senior at [Augustana College](#) in Rock Island, Illinois, where she will continue studying biology and preparing to graduate in 2021.

"I chose biology because I've always been interested in science for as long as I can remember," she says. "I'm really interested in how things work, in terms of science or why things happen, especially in the human body." After she completes her biology degree at Augustana, Jenkins hopes to attend graduate school. From there, she has her eyes on a career in medicine, and sees herself working in a laboratory on human diseases, and consulting with physicians and their patients.

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Jenkins, who has two older siblings and one younger, chose Augustana because of its science programs. She says the college reminds her of her hometown of Bloomington, Illinois. "The people at Augustana really want me to succeed, so they help get me all the resources I need," she says.

Jenkins is the recipient of an ACI General Scholarship, which helps her stay focused on her science interests. "The scholarship is paying for my rent for the upcoming fall semester," she says. "My parents and me don't have to worry about paying for housing until the spring. I was really thankful and appreciative of that." The funds also help because Jenkins will soon be paying for test fees for graduate school entrance exams and graduate school application fees.

The scholarship has motivated her to help others. "It really inspires me to someday do the same for somebody else," she says. "I can help them achieve some of their dream."

Jenkins is an active student outside the classroom at Augustana College. She does campus security work for the Augustana Public Safety Office and serves as president of Ladies of Vital Essence (L.O.V.E.), an Augustana College multicultural service group with a commitment to academic excellence. Jenkins is also a member of the Black Student Union on campus.