



Jessica Bobula Foster

UVA School of Medicine, Class of 2010

Hometown: Olney, MD

Specialty: Pediatrics (with plans to pursue a fellowship in hematology/oncology)

Why UVA? UVA has a collegial environment, and my classmates are my colleagues and friends rather than people I am competing against. Collegiality combined with a tradition of excellence makes UVA a unique place to train.

Extracurricular Highlights: My first two years I was involved in the American Medical Association as community service co-chair and co-leader of the pediatrics interest group. My work with the AMA gave me the opportunity to lobby in Richmond, which was a great way to learn about the legal aspects of healthcare. I also participated in the annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) trip to Wise, Va., where I learned and practiced clinical skills while helping the underserved in rural southwest Virginia. I have also been involved in the Academic Mentorship Program, providing tutors to first- and second-year medical students.

Scholarship Support: I had several offers from competitive schools, and I had a difficult time deciding between them. When UVA offered me a scholarship, it immediately rose to the top of my list. I went to UVA's second-look weekend, which confirmed that UVA was without a doubt the right choice. The scholarship has been an amazing gift. Unlike many of my friends, I felt no burden to choose a specialty based on the need to pay back loans. It has allowed me to fully explore my career dreams and act on them without hesitation. I hope to one day provide similar scholarships to UVA medical students.