



Name: Claire DeJong

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: West Fargo, ND

Why did you choose NDSU?

NDSU was a way that I could combine affordability and quality education while also staying close to my family. I was able to find my own way into an adult life while still having a sense of familiarity.

Why did you choose your major?

I have always been interested in problem solving and efficiency. While engineering as a whole can be defined by those qualities, I was more interested in the physical side and how parts moved and worked together to create something as a whole.

What extra-curricular activities/organizations are you involved in?

Besides school and work I am also the treasurer of Cantemus, an all-women's choir on campus and I am the Sevrinson liaison through the Engineering Ambassadors. I am also active in my hometown church.

How has NDSU prepared you for your future?

NDSU has taught me two important life lessons. The first lesson is how important it is to take care of your body. I have started eating healthier, working out more, and getting enough sleep. I have also learned how to prioritize and to only take on as much responsibility as is possible.

What are your future plans?

Currently I am a Junior and I do not have any concrete future plans. While I enjoy all of my classes, I feel a strong attachment to classes about fluids or about sustainability and greener products. For future internships and full-time jobs I hope to incorporate either or both of those interests.

What are your thoughts about Fargo?

Fargo is my hometown and I love it. It has the accommodations of a big town while still maintaining the small town atmosphere. The people are polite and always willing to lend a helping hand. The winters may be harsh, but if you can weather them you will be rewarded with beautiful summers, a lovely downtown, and several unique entertainment opportunities.

What advice would you give to a prospective student?

I would advise students to not be afraid. Don't be worried about talking to students or professors. This way you can start to make friends and eventually help in future classes. Don't be scared to join a club or activity where you don't know anybody. My college experience only began when I started to put my foot out there and do the things I wanted to do.