

# GRAMOS KELMENDI



## Why did you choose Chemistry as your major?

Initially, I chose chemistry because my advisor then advised me to switch to chemistry. After all, chemistry provides a wide array of future opportunities, such as many prerequisites for dental school, etc. Although after taking many chemistry courses, the great professors of the chemistry department made me love the subject and made all the studying worth the while.

## Student Corner: Can you tell us about your internship experience?

My research internship was a fantastic experience at MSKCC. My internship dealt with research on GI Medical Oncology, primarily on pancreatic cancer patients. Multiple combination chemotherapies were being tested to help fight against pancreatic cancer. Although my experience was excellent, since I was able to provide help in finding a cure for pancreatic cancer, it was saddening to see patients extraordinarily sick and weak.

## What is your best advice for student choosing to major in Chemistry?

Some of the best advice for students majoring in chemistry is to read the material in the book before lecture or lab class. Familiarize yourself with the terms and the concepts, even if it's not making sense at the moment; read the book because once you go to class, the concepts you read will come together like a puzzle. Secondly, practice is essential. Once you leave the class, learning should not stop there. Doing homework and practice problems in your free time is one of the best ways to make the hard material stick. Also, take the train!! It helps reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and it's a great place to read lecture notes. Lastly, ask for internship and volunteer opportunities. Start to plan these ahead of time; this way, at the end of your college career, you will have a cohesive and extraordinary CV/ Resume. (P.S.) Colleen O'Neill is a great help when it comes to these opportunities.

## What is next for you?

With dental school being so competitive, I will take an effective year off and focus on building my application, which includes internships, volunteering, and additional research opportunities, as well as studying for the DAT for this upcoming spring examination.

