

Savannah Oak

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Education

Bachelor of Arts

Expected May 2026

Grinnell College, Biological Chemistry major, GPA: 3.87/4.0

Grinnell, IA

- DIS – Study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, Human Health and Disease: Clinical Approach, Spring 2025
- *Relevant Coursework:* Molecular Biology, Advanced Cell Biology, Bioorganic Chemistry, Calculus I & II, Statistics, Neurobiology, Artificial Intelligence, Ceramics

Research and Work Experience

Research Intern

June–August 2025

University of Colorado

Boulder, CO

- Directed staff of four undergraduate researchers charged with analysis of vertical distribution of speciated hydrocarbons and radiosonde measurement of atmospheric conditions
- Implemented study, authoring methodology section, included in forthcoming *Scientific Journal* article
- Resolved issues, tracked timeline, facilitated meeting submissions deadlines, and presented results to department faculty and graduate students

Independent Researcher

May–August 2024

Mentored Advanced Project, Grinnell College

Grinnell, IA

- Predicted niches of freshwater copepods, documenting populations in thirteen Iowa rivers and lakes, hypothesizing population intensity based on water temperature and pesticide contamination
- Completed a paper and correlating poster examining the relationships among agricultural runoff, running water, and lake water, presenting findings to department faculty and students
- Invited to present poster at 2025 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology conference

Research Project: “Improving Dietary Behavior for College Students”

April–May 2024

Grinnell College, Biology Department

Grinnell, IA

- Developed a Qualtrics survey to assess dietary behaviors for current students, following NIH literature review on college-student nutritional programs due to stress and budget constraints
- Interpreted and analyzed survey results, presenting findings to classmates and department faculty and authoring a memo to Student Services requesting consistent access to fresh fruit on campus

Papers and Presentations

Lewis, Peter **Oak, Savannah**; Petal, John; Smith, Rachel; Yarnel, Grace. “Radiosonde Measurements of Vertical Distribution of Speciated Hydrocarbons in Atmospheric Conditions.” *Scientific Journal*, forthcoming (2026).

Oak, Savannah. “Niche Populations of Freshwater Copepods in Iowa.” Poster presentation. American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology regional conference, fall 2025.

Campus Involvements

- Student Educational Policy Committee Member, Biochemistry department 2024–present
- Second Viola, Grinnell College Symphonic Band 2022–present

Skills and Languages

Computer and Laboratory: Python, R studio, Cell culture, Gram staining, Media prep, Plasmid amplification

Languages: Spanish (advanced), Portuguese (conversational)