

Jackie Corbitt

Job title: Physics graduate student at the University of Washington

Can you tell us a little bit about your job/experience at grad school? What's an average day look like for you?

I get into work around 10 AM and leave around 6. My days are varied, but recently I've spent a lot of time on the computer doing analysis with a language/environment called Matlab. On other days I look at cells under microscopes, or go to meetings where we talk about different projects and ideas of fellow graduate students.



How did you start on your path to a career in STEM and what did that path look like?

When I started college I signed up for all the physics and math classes I could. I started wondering, though, if perhaps I should use my scientific interest in a way that I saw as more directly beneficial to mankind, and become a doctor. I plugged away at all the pre-med requirements (still majoring in physics) and even took the MCAT. Around the time I would need to apply for medical school, though, I realized that biology was not interesting to me at all. I felt far more at home in my physics and math classes. So, the end of my junior year of undergrad, I switched my plans back to where they started and applied for graduate school in physics. Best decision ever.

Do you have any STEM heroes?

I'm surrounded by the coolest people. I have a really deep respect for the people I've gotten to know through what I do. I don't know if I can point to anyone specifically as my "hero" because I am so impressed daily by the people I get to interact with, because of the science they do and also because of the people they are - hardworking and intelligent and passionate and kind. I get to meet a lot of those through my work, so, if you ask me if I have any STEM heroes, I'll say, "lots!"