David Deshpande (‘22 Biological Sciences) graduated from UWM one year ago, and already he is moving toward a fascinating and impactful future.

After a brief summer in Milwaukee, he moved to Chicago where he is finishing his first year at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.

He believes being a part of the Honors College played a major role in his successful medical school application.

“I appreciate the more creative approach to exploring unfamiliar topics and writing detailed reports; this definitely strengthened my writing skills,” he shares.

He also had the help of mentors from the Honors College to look over his application essays.

David is still open to many positions in the medical field but is currently studying surgery, which has proven to be of great interest to him.

During college, David worked as an EMT with Bell Ambulance, where he developed a passion for advocacy and policy work relating to equal healthcare access. These public health issues are what initially drew him to Chicago, a city with many health disparities.

His experience with emergency medicine has stuck with him too, and he is intrigued by the field of trauma surgery. In fact, he has a research program with his mentors starting this summer.

Not surprisingly, David’s life is fast-paced and constantly evolving in medical school, so he has made it a goal to do some reflective writing.

“Even if it is just to remind myself of one interesting interaction I had with a patient in a single day,” David says, “I want to remember all the feelings and fleeting moments that happen during medical training.”

In the first few months of medical school, he took special note of how providers show empathy to patients, and he realized he was fortunate enough to have more time to engage with patients as he was in the student position.

Out of his reflections came, “The Young Person’s Guide to Empathy,” which David published on the website Sensible Medicine in February of this year.

He wants to continue to publish his reflections and advocate for meaningful change in the medical field.

David has three years left in Chicago, and as a Wisconsin native he would love to start his career in the Midwest.

Besides medical school, David will be volunteering at a community farm and gardening in a greenhouse where he already has planted beets, radishes, and kale.

He plans to do lots of bike-riding along the shores of Lake Michigan and enjoy the live music that Chicago has to offer. He also will take a trip to India this August before his classes resume in the fall.

David’s short time away from the Honors College has come with great success, and he has such a bright future to come.