

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jaden Graham, and I am a most gracious recipient of the Mississippi State Equine Association Endowed Scholarship. I fully understand what an honor this is, and I do fully understand its gravity. At Mississippi State, I am in my third of college, but I am classified as a senior. I aspire to enroll in the veterinary school here in 2027.

Outside the city of Laurel, MS is where I call home. I attended Northeast Jones Highschool after moving from Moselle, MS in middle school. My opportunity to attend MSU is solely attributed to scholarships as I did not come from an affluent family.

I humor at the thought that most people in pursuit of a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine usually are told from a young age, "You should be a vet," simply because they see the way we interact with animals. Ironically, for a long time, this is partially why I avoided this path. On the contrary, those who aren't saying that instead say, "Everyone wants to be a vet at some point." Unfortunately, for a long time, I let these two types of phrases deter me from what is my passion. I understand this is a peculiar backstory when it comes to my peers, most of whom have known their whole lives this is what they want and will do.

My love of animals, like most, started at an early age. I was on a horse before I could walk and barrel racing very young in 4H. Due to the passing of my grandfather, who took me to these events, and the busyness of being involved in other sports, I had to put barrel racing on the back burner where it would not be resumed for years at about ten years old. I never could completely give it up, though. My grandmother and I shared this passion, so I was never too far from a horse.

My other grandfather ran a small-scale beef cattle operation. Between the horses and his beef operation, I grew a love for large animals. I looked forward to working cattle and being the "shots girl" from a fairly young age.