

# PRESCRIPTION: PLATO

Combining the Classics, Service and a Scholarship  
into a Potion for Pre-medical Success

Reading Plato's *Republic* doesn't have obvious benefits for an aspiring physician. But while it lacks in practical tips for diagnosing appendicitis and starting an IV, the text is the perfect prescription for challenging a student's logic and reasoning skills.

"Learning how to think is really what the Honors College at Baylor has taught me," Nathan Grohmann, a senior from Weimar, Texas, mused. "Plato's *Republic*, St. Augustine's *Confessions*, or any of the other texts we read help me to look at every problem I encounter through more critical, analytical eyes."

And isn't that how we all want our doctors to approach their work? From the Honors College to receiving the service-oriented Carr P. Collins Scholarship, Nathan saw that Baylor emphasized the development of the whole individual...letting this pre-med student know he was in the best place to work toward his ambitions.

"I was looking for a challenge, and University Scholars definitely pushed me to my academic edge," Nathan laughed. Through his University Scholars major, Nathan had the freedom to tailor his studies to his interests and goals. A 50-page thesis on Nathan's four years of cancer treatment research with chemistry professor Kevin Pinney attests to the demands—and rewards—of his Honors College experience.

A rigorous course load undoubtedly contributed to Nathan's admission to Baylor College of Medicine. But doctors-to-be need critical thinking skills...as well as a sense of service to their patients.

**"Service is its own education," Nathan observed. "Developing that sense of giving back to others is important now and when I'll be serving others as a doctor. You act as a reflection of Christ's life for other people and magnify that light for everyone to see."**

So the Collins Scholars program, with its focus on service and leadership, not only helped Nathan attend Baylor—the opportunity also encourages Nathan's growth as a well-rounded student, setting him apart from other aspiring physicians.

Indeed, service is a way of life for Nathan, who not only volunteers at the Providence Health Center emergency room but also serves at Baylor. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he has held multiple leadership positions but particularly enjoyed supporting his fraternity brothers as their chaplain. And in his role as Financial Affairs Co-chair for Student Foundation, Nathan helps raise scholarship funds for fellow students. A small-town student who has grown academically and spiritually through his Baylor experience, he is eager to share that opportunity with others.

"Studying abroad in Maastricht, researching with Dr. Pinney, going on a medical mission trip to Honduras—these experiences are where I really grew as a person. Without scholarships, it would be difficult for my parents to put me through Baylor," Nathan said, noting that his younger sister also attends Baylor. "The Collins family and others who have supported endowed scholarships are real heroes because of their generosity and foresight. They didn't know who any of the Collins Scholars would be, yet they knew endowed scholarships were incredibly important to developing young servant leaders who can then magnify that initial investment by helping others."

Perhaps scholarships are comparable to *The Republic*—surely Plato had no idea, back in 360 BCE, of the enduring power of his work. And the Collins family could only dream of accomplishments that Collins Scholars might achieve. But lifted up with wisdom and supported by scholarships, Nathan Grohmann has the prescription for success.

NATHAN GROHMANN