

Meet Olivia Hogan-Lopez, GHS Class of 2022



Olivia graduated armed with an impressive array of achievements and full of passion for human rights and STEM. She was accepted into Harvard, one of the top universities in the world. Olivia has a rich history with GEF, with many of her clubs and initiatives being funded directly by GEF grants, including fighting for gender parity in the sciences.

Olivia's love of the natural world has led her to study engineering and public policy within the field of environmental science. Olivia is also a talented sailor on the Harvard sailing team, feeding her passion for the ocean. Olivia is going into her sophomore year prepared to dive into her coursework and continue fighting for positive change.

What are you studying right now in college?

I'm currently undeclared for my major, I'm going to declare very soon: a combined major in Environmental Science Engineering and Environmental Science Public Policy. I've always liked science, and in terms of policy, I think that it's really important that we're able to combine it with the science. I think in many cases, the scientists and the politicians are very separated, so I think it's really important to have people that are educated on both sides so that we can make effective change.

Where do you think your love of STEM began? What encouraged your interest in it?

I think it was early for me. I love everything, and it's hard for me to choose one area because I didn't have a subject that I didn't like...I took an unusual route. Freshman year, you usually choose between biology or **engineering**. I told my guidance counselor that I really wanted to take both of them, and she warned me that it would be too much...She ended up letting me take both in the end, which was lucky. I loved learning about how biology and engineering intersected, about the connections between them. My love of STEM started earlier than high school, but I think it solidified in high school.

When you were at GHS, what were your main extracurriculars?

I was on the sailing team, and I was in a couple clubs. I started a couple fundraising groups, like Books for Mexico, which collected donations so that I could bring school supplies to the town in Mexico where my dad is from. I also helped with Hats for the Homeless, and I started the **Gender Equity in STEM club**, which GEF helped to fund. Leading that group really helped me grow, it's something I really enjoyed and would've needed going into high school. It helped me realize how passionate I am about equity, and having equity in STEM across all genders and races. It definitely helped me realize how important it is to advocate for yourself and others, and that's one of the reasons why I want to go into public policy.

If everything goes perfectly for you post-college, where do you see yourself ideally?

Honestly, there are so many options, especially since I'm lucky enough to be going to college where I'm going. Right now, the deciding factor for me is I want to do some research in school, maybe write a paper, and depending on how that goes I'll have to choose between graduate school or possibly joining the Peace Corps. I'm studying public policy, so I could go into law if I wanted. There are a lot of things I could do. One thing is for sure, I want to work on the ocean, and I want to help people.



This interview was conducted by GHS student Aurelia Harrison in 2023, as part of a GEF Summer Internship. GEF funds a wide variety of dynamic programs in the arts, STEM, and more in the Gloucester Public Schools. GEF-funded programs are highlighted in yellow above. To learn more visit our website: www.thinkthebest.org.



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