

# Meet the Early Selection Student

## Why VCU?

VCU School of Medicine has a lot of opportunities for service, which I'm looking forward to engaging in. What attracted me was the school's diversity, commitment to service, prestige, and liveliness.



## About Her

- **Biology with Honors major**
- **Class of 2021**
- **Hometown: Lorton, VA**
- **Attended South County High School**

## Taharah Islam

### Favorite Experiences

- After shadowing physicians from different specialties, I started working as a **medical assistant** first for an **obstetrician/gynecologist** practice and then in an **internal medicine** practice.
- I've learned invaluable **clinical skills** such as: drawing blood, running electrocardiograms, performing pelvic ultrasounds, taking blood pressure manually, using a stethoscope, and medical coding.
- I volunteered at my local **community center**, where I bonded with children from low-income families and I volunteered for a **non-profit organization** in Washington, D.C., where I distributed food to homeless youth.
- I was actively involved in student organizations including the **Pre-Medical Society** (*as the Director of Public Relations*) and the **American Medical Women's Association** (*as the President*).

### Taharah's advice for applicants



There may be times when you feel overwhelmed, hopeless, and not good enough. The journey to medical school isn't easy. Please understand that it's alright to fail. It's all about determination and your ability to pick yourself back up. If you have the desire to pursue medicine, you will become a physician one day.