

If I had a dollar for everyone who has ever asked me if I play basketball or volleyball because of my height, I would not need this scholarship! Rule of thumb says that if you double a child's height at age two, you can estimate their potential height. For me that has turned out to be true. I have always loved being tall. It is part of my identity. Since I started preschool, I have towered over my peers. Most of my family is average when it comes to height. The biggest exception is my Dad who is six feet, four inches tall. Since I was a little kid, people have assumed I am older than I actually am because of my height. When my height has seen me treated as older and more mature, it has boosted my self confidence. This confidence helps me communicate with adults easier, which some people in my generation struggle with. I do not try to appear smaller than I am. When I am talking with my other tall friends they complain about if they wear heels they might be taller than their date or group they are going out with. I do not see the issue with it. I love being taller than other people and I would hope my date does not have such a small ego to get upset about being shorter than his date.

My height of five feet, 10 inches has given me distinct advantages athletically. As a tall, redhead, dual sport goalie in field hockey and soccer I am not overlooked. I am always the tallest on the field, usually significantly the tallest. As a goalie, height is important because you are physically taking up more space in front of the goal, which not only allows you to block more shots but makes you look more intimidating. Height gives you more jump and a wider wingspan when making critical goal saving dives and reaching for balls shot into the top and bottom corners of the net.

I have been playing sports for 14 years and have loved every second of it, even when I was learning instead of winning. Being an athlete has taught me to have focus, resilience, confidence,

and strong communication skills while performing under pressure. These skills are further reinforced by my part-time job officiating soccer games, which requires integrity, honesty, and courage. Playing sports has given me an education only gained by showing up for myself and my teammates even when I would rather stay in bed. Although these characteristics have been learned through sports, I have applied them to every aspect of my educational journey.

Thankfully being tall helped me stand out during the college athletic recruiting process for both field hockey and soccer. Right now my passion for sports and my educational drive have successfully aligned. I will attend Hood College in the fall of 2026 to pursue my bachelor's degree in nursing and be a goalie on the field hockey team. After graduation I plan to work in service to others as an emergency room nurse. Working as a registered nurse in an ER will require me to use the problem solving skills, game time decision making ability, communication skills, and the ability to stay calm under pressure while trusting in my knowledge to perform in stressful emergency medical situations that I have learned as a tall soccer and field hockey goalie. I might not be a basketball player but being tall has been a distinct advantage on the field, which I can now use to fulfill my dream of being a collegiate athlete while pursuing a degree in a high demand industry where I will be assured a job where I'll likely always be the tallest woman in the room.