

# Chamonix, France

## Richard Shea



**Program:** Wilderness Medicine in the Alps, Summer 2017

**Major:** Undeclared

### Earning the Career Development Badge:



I took the Wilderness Medicine program in Chamonix, France because I am interested in pursuing medical school and wanted to experience hiking the Mont Blanc trail across different countries in Europe. Upon arrival, we spent the first several days in Chamonix, learning about outdoor wilderness emergency procedures. The class was both interesting and informative. I learned practical skills that can be applied in many situations. I will not only be able to utilize these skills in a medical work environment in the future, but also when I am out hiking, biking, skiing, etc. At the end of the class, we took a certification test to evaluate our knowledge then we put our new skills to the test, hiking the beautiful and sometime treacherous terrain along Mont Blanc. For the next week, our group hiked through stunningly beautiful country side from village to village, starting in Italy, through Switzerland, and back to France. It was an experience I will never forget, an education for the mind, body, and soul.

### Transferable Skills:



I am planning to volunteer at several events. The group of friends I made during my study abroad program made the trip worthwhile alone. To experience the Mont Blanc hike and learn new emergency medical skills is something I feel all students would thoroughly enjoy and benefit from in various ways.

Opening up a dialog about my involvement and what I learned with other students helps me remember what an extraordinary travel experience I had the privilege to experience last summer.

***“Traveling abroad influences the way I see the world. Hiking through Italy, Switzerland and France, talking with villagers, eating new foods, gazing at amazing glaciers and mountains—you can't help but feel different and changed by these experiences.”***

