MARISSA HAYNES

Majors: Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies
Minor: Spanish

Educational Highlights: The combination of my majors and minor has given me the opportunity to curate an education that has prepared me to be a constructive member of society after graduation. I have excelled in courses that consider and emphasize the role of intersectionality as it relates to everyday life. Each semester since my freshman year, I have earned a spot on the President’s List for academic excellence. As a sophomore, my first job on campus was as a Peer Academic Coach, during which I collaborated with and mentored students who may be at risk for academic hardship. For a year and a half, I met with four students weekly and individually to help them stay on track and organized during the semester. For two years, I have been the Teaching Assistant for the Feminist Self Defense course through which I’ve had the privilege to empower students physically, mentally, and emotionally with the intersection of feminism and the art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. I am also a recipient of the Ketner Emerging Leaders Scholarship, which supports student leaders in their journey towards academic, activist, and personal achievement. It has been an honor to serve my fellow classmates and my community in any capacity that I can.

Research Focus or Project: As part of both my scholarship and my internship, I have spearheaded the new Women’s and Gender Studies podcast at the College. The show will become a platform for activists in our college community to talk about the work they do and the journeys they’ve taken to get there, and it will act as a source of information and inspiration for listeners who want to learn how to be involved in activism at any level.

Future Plans: My goals after graduating from The College of Charleston are to earn my Master of Social Work and to begin working with children and families of low-income or otherwise marginalized communities. I want to make a difference in the systems that are currently failing too many families, and I have hopes to ensure that these systems prioritize sustainably keeping families together.

This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the College of Charleston, Spring 2022.