2023 HSS SCHOLAR

KAITLYN VICTORIA

MAJOR: POLITICAL SCIENCE
(PATH PREMED)

Educational Highlights: I feel fortunate to have undertaken research in the fields of both political science and women's healthcare. As a member of the Women's Health Research Team, I explored the perinatal experiences of women in Ireland under harsh Covid regulations. During an independent study under the guidance of Dr. Briana McGinnis, I delved into the collateral consequences of imprisonment in America. Outside of class, I served as treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Delta, treasurer of Students Helping Honduras, and was a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi. Perhaps most significantly, I served as president of the Hispanic-Latino Club. In this role, I worked to expand our clubs' prominence on campus and our impact on the wider Latino community. Off campus, I volunteered with the Reading Partners of Charleston and worked as the Head Scribe of the Pediatric Emergency Room at MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital.

Research Focus: During my junior year, I was awarded a SURF grant and researched educational opportunities offered in American prisons. I am thrilled that the research I co-authored with Dr. McGinnis will be published in the Rutledge volume *Mass Incarceration in the 21st Century* this summer. Our project, “Prison Education, Democracy, and Solidarity,” argues that offering for-credit liberal arts education programs in prisons is beneficial to both incarcerated Americans and our country as a whole.

Future Plans: After graduation, I am moving to Madrid, Spain, for a year-long legal internship. I hope to hone my Spanish skills and explore new political structures abroad. Following this, I plan to enroll in medical school in the United States to work towards achieving my dream of becoming a neonatologist.