Wings Over America Scholar

William Buyske

Council Bluffs, IA

Sponsor: CAPT Matthew Buyske

College: University of Notre Dame

2026-2027: Junior

Major: Program of Liberal Students with Philsophy, Liturgical Ministry

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Choir: choir section leader, All-South Jersey Honor Choir and Notre Dame Folk Choir
- Musical Theater/Drama Productions
- Basketball: Intramural men's and coed teams
- Sorin Fellows
- Design Build Fly Aviation Engineering Club
- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (University of Notre Dame Campus Ministry) & St. Matthew School volunteer



As I sit and reflect upon the two years of undergraduate studies I've completed, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the countless ways in which I've been formed as a person. Plenty of these moments of growth have occurred outside the classroom, but I also find myself reflecting on the many moments of intellectual passion and joyful academic curiosity in the context of my courses which have contributed to my development as a learner and a thinker. Not only have I been blessed with these instances of passion and curiosity, but I've also had diverse opportunities to pursue these interests inside and outside the classroom. For example, one of the classes I took last spring had a curriculum which synthesized philosophy, theology, and ecology. In this class, I wrote a paper on the Flathead Lake region in western Montana. Then, that following summer, I was able to travel to that very region and see for myself the landscape of which I had written. The questions I grappled with in the class and during the trip have formed the basis of my continued research in the areas of philosophy, theology, and ecology. Receiving this WOASF scholarship has significantly decreased the financial pressure I anticipated would be present in coming years, which will allow me to pursue further educational and research opportunities outside the classroom. Thanks to WOASF, I have the chance to extend the scope of my academic passions.