

## Baylee Close

Baylee Close is a first year MBA student at the Wisconsin School of Business specializing in Strategic Human Resource Management. She previously studied at the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, then transferred to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for the Animal Science program. She studied Pre-Veterinary medicine, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science with a Companion Animal emphasis.

During her time as an undergraduate student, Baylee volunteered at the Humane Society in

Cozumel Mexico, participated in a swine study as a research assistant, and was a part of the Honor's Program. These experiences affirmed for her that if you step outside of your comfort zone it is possible to thrive in collaborative, dynamic environments. Upon graduating, Baylee worked as a Veterinary Assistant supporting the care of animals and the smooth operation of a small animal clinic in Madison, WI. During this time, she realized that the veterinary industry not only centers on animal health but is equally people-focused, based on building trust with owners, client education, and providing empathy during difficult times.

For the past two years, Baylee worked as a manager at DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse putting her people-focused skills to use with her "best foot forward." She led a team of associates in a fast-paced, omni-channel retail environment. By leveraging business metrics to improve inventory flow and increase sales, she consistently delivered strong results. Known for her leadership style rooted in mentoring others, she fostered growth and engagement with her associates through coaching, training, and strategic talent placement. This experience sparked an interest in HR practices.

While in the MBA program, Baylee seeks to establish a foundation of knowledge in the language of business to become a strategic human resources professional. She looks forward to learning new skills and connecting with others to learn about their personal and professional experiences. She aims for a career that leverages her diverse work and academic experiences in a development focused workplace. In her personal time, Baylee enjoys trying new restaurants with friends and walking her dog around the block.