



## Biography of Chikezie Eseonu

Chikezie Eseonu of Chesterfield County, Virginia, is entering Harvard University where he plans to study biomedical engineering.

He selected Harvard because of its excellent biomedical engineering program and its generous financial aid package. He also liked the fact that the university is located in a major metropolitan area.

Chikezie was born in Richmond, Virginia. He attended the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies in Richmond where he was able to meet students from throughout the metropolitan area and pursue his favorite subjects of math and science. Of all his courses, Chikezie says AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry—one of 10 AP courses he took during high school—was his favorite.

During high school, Chikezie not only challenged himself by taking rigorous courses but also by getting involved in numerous activities outside of school. He cofounded the Model Congress Club, which helps students understand the legislative process through simulations and mock congressional sessions. He played varsity soccer all four years and varsity basketball during his junior year. Chikezie was a member of the Key Club, whose members raised money for cancer research and collected food and clothing for the poor. As a member of the United Sisters and Brothers, he participated in community cleanup projects and encouraged dialogue between the high school and the community. Chikezie was also a cofounder of the Pickleball Club. Pickleball is a "mini-tennis" game played with wooden paddles and a plastic ball. "I liked it so much when we played in phys ed that I turned it into a club," he said.

Over the last few summers, Chikezie has worked as a research intern at the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. His work involves cloning various proteins that play a vital part in the immune system. "It's a great experience and I enjoy doing the research," he says. He has also interned at a pediatric medical facility, where he assisted the doctor with basic checkups.

Chikezie took the SAT<sup>®</sup> twice. He used a basic online preparation tool and also studied an SAT practice book. Chikezie scored 800 on the math section of the SAT. "Since I was taking AP Calculus, I only took a little time to review basic algebra and geometry concepts that I'd forgotten over the years," he said. "I found the math section relatively easy, but the verbal section was a bit more challenging."

Chikezie's name is Nigerian, from the Nigerian dialect Igbo. Both of his parents, Maxwell and Dorothy Eseonu, are Nigerian. His father is a professor of economics at Virginia State University and his mother is a professor of chemistry at Virginia Union University. Chikezie has three siblings. His sister Ihuoma attends Hampton University and his brother Chijioke attends Virginia Commonwealth University. His younger sister Amarachi is in middle school.