



# Mary Quilici

## June 2021 Graduation

### Double Major: Biological Sciences and Italian Studies

I became interested in majoring in Italian due to the fact that my family is originally from Lucca, Tuscany. I wanted to further my education on my Italian culture, history, language, and to celebrate in my heritage. UC Davis's Italian program provided me a fully enriched experience in which I was able to achieve these goals and grow in my Italian community. During my time in the Italian Department, some of my favorite memories are from my time working as the President of CIAO club and as the Peer Advisor for the Italian Department. I loved working with the students in our department in such a close and unique way that allowed us all to become active members of our community while in undergrad. I was able to host cooking nights, Italian movie nights, conversational lunches, raffles, and numerous events with our students to help them grow during their time majoring/minoring in Italian at UC Davis. I am currently a dental student studying at the University of the Pacific Dental School in San Francisco. There are a number of our patients who come in for treatments who cannot speak english and it is an honor to be able to use my knowledge of language that I learned from the UC Davis Italian Department to help treat these patients. I have patients who speak Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and French and I am able to use the skill set that was given to me throughout my time in undergrad to translate what these patients are saying, what they need, and speak back to them in a manner that they understand. Without my education that I received within the Italian Department at UC Davis, I would not be able to see these patients or treat them as effectively as I do. Another area in which I am able to use my knowledge of the Italian language and culture is within my work as a board member of the Italian COMITES located in San Francisco. Our group works with the Italian consulate to provide guidance and support to Italians who have the goal of working, living, or studying in the United States. We also work to support Italian Americans who want to become involved in their communities and build up a strong foundation for Italian American groups in their areas. I would highly recommend majoring in Italian as this was one of the best decisions I made throughout my time in undergrad. Within the Italian Department, I had 10-20 students per class which allowed me to meet some of the most incredible people throughout the quarters. The faculty are kind hearted, generous people who are working towards making sure you are getting everything you need to succeed. I believe that my Italian Studies Major along with my Biological Studies Major truly provided me the perfect balance of culture, art, literature, along with science. The last thing I'd suggest is don't be afraid to get involved with your community, with the Italian Club, and I hope you consider adding Italian as one of your majors (I promise you won't regret it!)