

98%

of Great Hearts graduates immediately move on to college. Making sure these scholars are prepared for this journey, and for life beyond school, is at the core of what we do.



Starting the Journey...

Ruth Oliver // Class of 2017 // Arete Prep

Reading assignments, homework, soccer, swimming, family (phew!)—the list goes on and on. But Arete Prep's 2017 Valedictorian Ruth Oliver has found the poise to carry her through a chaotic world.

"I don't get a lot of just me time," she said. And it's easy to see why.

Somehow, the 17-year-old has found stability when it comes to balancing her school life and her life at home. In addition to maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average and receiving a perfect score on the ACT, the senior also participates in soccer, swimming, and track and field for Arete. "Even though it is kind of stressful, it's really good for me to be everywhere and doing everything."

She says the reason she enjoys doing so much is the number of people she gets to meet. "Sometimes, I almost feel like I'm friends with the whole school!" Because of the school's emphasis on supporting others in the school and the surrounding community, she wants to be even more involved in college, and is already off to a good start, having been accepted as a member of the Next Generation Service Corps at ASU in the fall.

But without Great Hearts, she feels her rigorous academic and extracurricular lifestyle would not be possible. "Within Great Hearts, I have had so many opportunities to stretch myself and grow. The teachers and coaches support their students and want us to reach our goals. I took advantage of the many opportunities the school offers because the support I received from the faculty showed me I never need to fear failure." She has not only taken advantage of every moment of her high school career, but also moves on from high school having learned this valuable lesson.

Ruth was accepted into Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, where she plans to study materials engineering. She hopes to take that knowledge and work for NASA one day. "With materials engineering, you can become a part of the space program without solely just having to study space."

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