Concise Career Plan:

My career objective is to get into a direct PhD program after I graduate with my Bachelor’s Degree of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering. I hope to get into a PhD program in bioengineering, stem cell biology, stem cell engineering, or genetic engineering, and graduate within 6-7 years with my doctoral degree. Since I graduate in Spring of 2020 with my Bachelor’s degree, I hope to have my PhD by 2026. There are a variety of job prospects associated with a PhD in bioengineering, including in both industry and academia. Within industry, with a PhD in bioengineering, one can be a project lead or lead an R&D team within certain biomedical companies like Gore, Stryker, and Medtronic. Within academia, with a PhD in bioengineering, one can be a professor at a university conducting research or work at a research institution like the National Institute of Health or the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF).

The skills that I will need in order to achieve my goals are as follows: I will need to be very well versed in stem cell culture techniques, experimental design, technical writing, and have a significant amount of research experience. In addition to this, I need to have conference presentation skills, understand the conceptual background of stem cells and microbiology, and understand how to read and analyze publications and papers. Currently I work in a research lab, and I have been working in a research lab for over 2 years. I am also currently a project lead and I have had experience presenting at 2 research symposiums and 2 conferences. I have also submitted several abstracts and posters for a variety of different presentation opportunities, and I have received several thousand dollars in grant funding. Since I have gained the skills that I have mentioned previously through these experiences, in order to maximize my chances of getting into a top tier PhD program, I would need to reach the following key objectives: present at more conferences, have a paper published, and participate in an NSF sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). In order to obtain these objectives, I will be applying for REUs this winter break for Summer of 2019. I have also recently won a travel grant to attend the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in February of 2019, which will be another opportunity for me to present my research. If my abstract is selected, it will be published, which will also fulfill a key objective. I will continue to search and apply for opportunities that will maximize my chances to learn and grow in a professional research environment.