



# Thushara Thomas

**B.S. in Food, Agricultural, Biological Engineering (2019)  
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## **Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Process Development Engineer:**

I support changes and troubleshoot processes within the clinical laboratory. This could be implementing a new process to take in patient samples or designing new equipment to automate an action. I design experiments and analyze data to help drive continuous improvement and sustainment efforts to improve efficiency, throughput, robustness, and quality of the results that come out of the lab.

## **Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:**

The most important skill that has helped me be successful in my role has been showing up and being curious. Additionally, knowing the “market value” of the role in your field has helped me be on track with career growth. Look at postings in your field at the level you want and make sure you are striving for the skills listed, whether its technical or soft skills. Some skills that I use every

day include design of experiments, technical writing, statistics, and project management.

## **What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Food, Agricultural, Biological Engineering?**

There are a lot of internship and job opportunities that explicitly state what major they are looking for and often FABE is left off that list. Don't let it discourage you - apply anyway and sell the experiences that you do have, whether it's a project from your classes or an extra-curricular activity. You will have the same foundation blocks as your other engineering peers, but it is up to you to showcase the benefits of your differences.

