

GRACE HOULE

Economics & Policy

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Economics graduate who translates technical sustainability and policy analysis into decisions institutions can act on. Advised a \$3.7B apparel company on circularity strategy, represented Appalachian State at COP30 examining just-transition and climate finance policy, and led a B Corp-aligned impact assessment for Caleres Footwear. Seeking a policy, advocacy, or economic development role in North Carolina.

EDUCATION

B.A. Economics – Environmental Economics & Policy | *Appalachian State University*

Aug 2022 – May 2026

Minor in Sustainable Business

GPA: 3.9/4.0 | Chancellor's List (Fall '22, Spr '23, Fall '23, Fall '24, Spr '25) | Dean's List (Spr '24, Fall '25)

Brashear Research Prize, 1st Place — Department of Economics, Appalachian State University

"Fire in the Fine Print: The Effect of California's AB 38 Wildfire Risk Disclosure Requirement on Residential Property Values"

Relevant coursework: Environmental Economics & Policy, Applied Econometrics, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Game Theory, Time Series & Forecasting, UN Climate Negotiations

EXPERIENCE

Student Delegate, COP30 UN Climate Negotiations | *Walker College of Business*

Nov 2025

- Selected as 1 of 6 students representing Appalachian State at the UN Climate Change Conference among 60,000 delegates from 200 countries
- Analyzed just-transition policy and climate finance mechanisms, evaluating how social safety nets and worker retraining programs support economic security during energy transitions

Holland Fellow | *Walker College of Business*

Jan – May 2025

- Selected as 1 of 12 students for a competitive sustainable consulting program; developed and presented a strategy proposal in Asia on business design and growth in the apparel industry
- Advised Kontoor Brands (parent of Wrangler, Lee, Rock & Republic; \$3.76B market cap) on circularity strategy using IRO and Double Materiality Assessment frameworks, and researched manufacturing-specific environmental regulation to inform regulatory compliance

Chief Operations Officer, ICBSC | *Walker College of Business*

Jan – May 2026

- Directed production scheduling, R&D investment, and operational capacity planning for a simulated firm in the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition
- Worked cross-functionally with finance, marketing, and strategy leads to build formal business plans and benchmark performance each quarter
- Won 1st place for presentations and finished runner-up overall out of competing university teams

Impact Clinic Participant | *Walker College of Business*

Aug – Dec 2024

- Partnered with Caleres Footwear through an experiential consulting course to conduct a B Corp-aligned Impact Assessment
- Applied CSRD and B Corp Standards to assess initiatives and recommend improvements aligned with the company's environmental, social, and financial goals

Truist Immersive Learning Experience | *Walker College of Business & Truist Bank*

Oct 2025

- Selected as 1 of 16 students to represent Walker College of Business at Truist's annual Case Study Experience
- Collaborated with the City of Charlotte and Amazon Web Services to design an AI-powered digital solution for municipal services

Research Analyst, Beans2Brew | *Walker College of Business*

Sept 2024 – May 2026

- Lead research and analytics for a student-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit coffee shop, including ROI analysis on capital investments
- Develop data-driven proposals that inform strategic decision-making for the leadership team

LEADERSHIP & ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

GreenBiz25 Student Representative — Selected as 1 of 2 students (of 4,200) to represent the university at GreenBiz, a 3,000+ attendee sustainability conference (Feb 2025)

Women of Walker Mentor — Mentored incoming students through a professional development program for women in the Walker College of Business (Jan 2025 – May 2026)

Vice President, Alpine Ski Team — Managed communications, travel, and event logistics for a 40+ member club team; previously Secretary (Sept 2022 – May 2025)

SKILLS

Policy & Analysis: Econometric Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Double Materiality Assessment, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Stakeholder Mapping, Systems Thinking

Frameworks: CSRD, B Corp Standards, GRI, TCFD, SASB, Life Cycle Assessment

Technical: R Studio, Power BI, Excel, OpenLCA, Canva, Miro