

Soojin Kwon is a Ph.D. student at North Carolina State University. She received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree at Seoul National University. Through the undergraduate courses, she added basic building blocks for understanding and analyzing natural polymers, especially wood-based lignocellulose. As a master student in the Paper Science Laboratory, she has participated in several studies about the styrene acrylate latex used in the paper coating. She focused on the characteristic changes in the latex particles and the structural changes of coating layer, depending on the monomer composition of latexes or latex polymerization methods. Through the studies and courses in the previous university, she could develop the ability to study both natural and synthetic polymers. After obtaining the master's degree, she immediately joined the Nonwoven Institute and started a project about the biodegradation of nonwoven products and fiber. Soojin Kwon is now working to understand the aquatic biodegradation of natural and synthetic fibers and aims to identify the characteristics affecting the degradation and apply them to nonwoven products.