

Personal Statement for Medical School

Although I have dreamed of becoming a physician since childhood, my decision to pursue medicine was solidified during my senior year of college when I was volunteering at Memorial Hospital. As part of my volunteer duties, I worked as a Spanish translator, transported patients, and assisted nurses perform tasks such as starting IV lines.

One day, I was asked to translate for an overweight, middle-aged Hispanic lady who was suffering from acute abdominal pain. The ER attending thought the patient had gallstones. I held the patient's hand while she was sent off for an abdominal ultrasound. At first the woman was shaking and crying, but after a short time, my presence calmed her. I did my best to assuage her fears by talking to her softly and assuring her that the doctors would do everything they could to help her. After the ultrasound failed to show any pathology, she was rushed off for an emergency CT scan of her abdomen. The woman was then diagnosed with appendicitis, and I continued to comfort her until the surgeon arrived for a consult. The patient was grateful for my assistance and thanked me profusely. I remember that I felt immediate satisfaction because of my contribution to her well-being. This experience not only triggered my interest in acute medicine, but also motivated me to someday do well by guiding people through their medical problems. I was sure I wanted to become a physician—the culmination of medical service.

Although my yearning to become a physician is primarily rooted in my desire to help people who are sick, I am also keen on becoming a physician for several other reasons. I enjoy the idea of spending a lifetime devoted to the service of humanity. I also look forward to the lifelong study of clinical medicine—a dynamic field of study in which I am interested.

I have had diverse health care experiences; consequently, I've gained an in-depth exposure to the world of medicine. In addition to performing years of hospital volunteer service, I've also worked as a preventive health care researcher, advocate, and educator. I've studied the preventive health effects of providing the hepatitis B vaccine to children in the Houston school district and helped administer the vaccinations in organized efforts. I also worked with the Asian-American community promoting breast cancer awareness and educating the female population on early detection of breast cancer by the performance of monthly breast self-examinations.

I am resolved to pursue the study of medicine, and I look forward to spending a lifetime practicing as a primary care physician. I am eager to someday serve my community as a compassionate and effective doctor. Nothing would make me happier than to devote the next four years of my life training to become a physician.