

Medical School Personal Statement (Important Details Changed)

In 1966, during a speech to the Medical Committee for Human Rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, “of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” Through my life experience thus far, I have found that statement to be true. I am amazed to see the disparities in healthcare throughout the world and as an aspiring physician, I hope to positively impact the lives of others on both American and foreign soil.

My interest in global health began when I volunteered at small medical clinic in Developing Country Z called Clinic X during my Study Abroad experience. The stark contrast between the healthcare systems of Developing Country Z and the United States shocked me. The hospital in Developing Country Z was understaffed and lacked basic supplies such as antibiotics and basic first aid equipment. I was assigned important responsibilities that included changing bandages, cleaning wounds, replacing IV bags, tasks that would normally be given to a nurse or nurse’s assistant in the US. As a native speaker of Spanish, I conducted initial interviews with patients and relayed their complaints to the treating physician. I never would have been given so many responsibilities in the United States.

I realized I needed to learn more about healthcare, both in the United States and abroad. To improve my knowledge of US healthcare, I became a licensed EMT, worked for the University Y Emergency Medical Services, and completed the Clinical Internship Program at the University Z Medical Center. In order to improve my understanding of global health, I decided to participate in several service trips to the countries of Developing Country X and Developing Country V. To expand my knowledge further, I began to pursue a Master’s in International Medicine at the University X.

My medical experience as an undergraduate led me to my interest in international medicine. As an EMT, I learned the fundamentals of patient assessment and quality care. In addition to treating and stabilizing patients, good record-keeping was essential to ensure continuity of care when I delivered my patients to the hospital. My notes from the scene of an accident helped physicians to develop more effective treatment plans for my patients. I have always been a copious note-taker in school and my experiences as an EMT taught me that good documentation was essential to the practice of medicine.

In addition to my EMT duties, I volunteered as medical worker as part of the Clinical Internship Program, rotating through four departments including Oncology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, and the Emergency Room. Many of the patients suffered from chronic or acute pain and the overworked nurses were sometimes unable to manage their pain medications effectively. Although good pain management did not always improve patient outcomes, it dramatically improved the quality of life. I came to realize that the responsibilities of a physician were not just to heal, but also to improve the quality of life of patients.

My studies of International Medicine at University X have helped further my understanding of international healthcare. Sickness is a universal part of the human experience with language and geography often acting as barriers to the treatment of illness. I believe this can be overcome with education, technology, and the development of healthcare infrastructure. With my bilingual ability and tremendous leadership experience, I am in a unique position to help underserved Spanish-speaking populations both in the United States and abroad to gain access to quality medical care.

Even though I struggled academically as a freshman in college, I have moved past my mistakes and have prospered. Through hard work and dedication, I have obtained a x.xx upper division GPA and a x.xx upper division science GPA. In addition, I currently maintain a x.x GPA for my Master’s in International Medicine. It is through my upper classmen years that I believe to have demonstrated my true academic ability. I understand the discipline and stamina required to succeed in medical school and I am more than ready to dedicate myself entirely to my dream of becoming a physician.

With a variety of different experiences, I have been able to observe the incredible impact that a physician has on the lives of his or her patients. I have seen the joy and happiness on a mother’s face after the birth of her child. I have witnessed the sorrow and heartbreak of a family member seeing their loved one pass away. In both scenarios, I noticed the incredible compassion that the doctors had with their patients and family members. As an aspiring physician, I will strive to maintain an extraordinary level of patient care and sincerity. This is my true motivation to pursue medicine.

The logical next step in my studies of global health is to pursue a degree in medicine so I can help to ensure broader access to healthcare for underserved populations. I hope to utilize my unique skills and experiences to accomplish this task and ultimately achieve my dream of becoming a primary care physician that specializes in family medicine. With a quality medical education I am confident that I will be able to positively influence the lives of thousands both here and abroad.