

Category

- a) Graduate school statements of purpose
- b) Medical school
- e) Personal essay

Prompt: Include an essay discussing the student's decision to pursue a career in medicine or an allied health profession. A successful essay will not only describe the factors that contributed to this decision, but also will give a sense of the student as an individual by discussing the reason(s) for pursuing a medical career and how he or she intends to contribute to this profession.

But Why an Ice Cream Truck?

As a child, I wanted to own an ice cream truck. I saw the joy these treats brought to children during sweltering summer days in Nogales, Arizona, the rural border town where I grew up. Here, I was fortunate enough to visit the dentist regularly unlike my immigrant parents. Surprisingly, I looked forward to my visits to the dental clinic trailer and, by third grade, I wanted to become a dentist. As I continued to grow up, I observed challenges my community endured-- issues ranging from obesity to teen pregnancy to illegal drug use-- so by eighth grade, I wanted to become the first Latina President of the United States so that I could address these issues. Some people grow up knowing exactly what they "want to be". On the other hand, I dreamt endlessly with aspirations to become an ice cream provider, a dentist, and a president. Nevertheless, I see a common thread in these professions--they are all grounded in an intrinsic motivation to serve and improve the lives of others. Today, this passion is much alive and drives me to work hard in order to one day practice medicine. I work for this goal because I yearn to have a direct impact on people's lives as a demonstration of love; love my spiritual faith encourages to demonstrate onto others.

As a citizen of the world, I believe I can better serve others by being well-educated. Throughout my undergraduate study, I first learned how to be a good student, and then became a scholar. Pursuing my majors in Microbiology and Spanish, while also studying abroad in Spain and Tanzania, did not allow me the flexibility to pursue a pre-med major. Yet, my zeal to practice medicine was further kindled by my involvement translating at a free medical clinic in central Ohio. Also, by working alongside physical therapists, I became acquainted with the recuperation process a patient undergoes after procedures like total knee replacements. I have also had experiences shadowing a variety of specialists at a hospital and clinic in Nogales. During this time, I observed C-sections, hysterectomies, colonoscopies, and other medical procedures. These medical experiences opened my eyes to this fascinating field. Furthermore, throughout my time abroad in Tanzania, I traveled around the country and while getting to know the people in the neighborhood I lived in, I heard and observed their health needs. I saw how medicine is a vessel for change that is much needed in underserved communities. I witnessed this need for meeting basic health needs not only overseas in Tanzania and in Nicaragua but also locally in central Ohio while serving in mission trips. Meanwhile, working with my sorority's philanthropy for the visually impaired, mentoring Latin American high school and elementary school students, and involving myself in Habitat for Humanity have all served to build my passion to serve others as a citizen of the world.

Overall, this pre-medical program would be a critical stepping stone towards my long term goal of practicing medicine. Rather than simply enrolling at another institution to take the final requirements for medical school, I am pursuing this opportunity because of its emphasis on classroom support, faculty guidance, and extracurricular activities in order to become an even more competitive and prepared candidate.

While the disciplines in Microbiology and Spanish will serve me well in my practice, what is more important is the reason behind "why" I want to practice medicine. I am not motivated by the authority that comes with wearing a white lab coat but rather the power that comes from listening and connecting to patients, especially those underserved. While others who want to attend medical school may be interested in having six digits on their checks, the numbers that drive me to pursue medicine are the numbers of infants that die before their first birthday, the number of adult-onset diabetes cases, and teens who have unwanted pregnancies. My dedication has brought me this far in my goal of becoming a doctor, and I am eager to see where that perseverance will take me now. I am confident that my commitment to excellence and positive change make me a fit candidate for this program and a profession in medicine.