

Austin Dodd

BIOL294

September 2, 2025

Genetics Writing Assignment #1: Personal Statement

Throughout my life one idea has always been hammered into my mind. This idea being “To help other people at all times” (Boy Scout Oath). After finishing my scout career as an Eagle Scout, I knew my passion belonged in the medical field. Even before finishing high school, medicine simply came naturally to me. As such I began to devote myself to the study of medicine which is why I am majoring in biomedical science. My intent is to further my medical education by applying to med school with the hope of continuing to achieve my doctoral degree in medicine. I plan to specialize in cardiology, with a focus on the most vital organ in the body being the heart. Beyond Boy Scouts, my inspiration to pursue medicine is deeply personal, influenced by a family history of genetic heart disease. This and many other experiences motivate me to hopefully contribute to cardiology research.

As I have said before, scouting has inserted a deep love of first aid within me. As such it made me seek other programs focused around first aid. One of them being the Junior Emergency Technicians program or “JETs” for short. This program focused on ideas taught to EMTs and firefighters. This furthered my medical knowledge from simple first aid to effective trauma care. After aging out of this program I became a lifeguard with the hopes of maintaining my ability to provide effective care to any who would be in need of help. So far, I am in my second year of ODU’s premed program and as such I plan to take on either undergraduate research or look for volunteer opportunities. This is so that I can take a deeper dive into a subject that I find to be most enjoyable. This will also further heighten my candidacy for med school. Med school is a very competitive area and with that being the case it is essential that I maintain a strong and competitive attitude when going into my studies. In my current year I have revisited many of the class topics that I have learned in previous years such as anatomy and biology. These subjects were my favorite and being able to revisit them has been a pleasure.

It is said that if you enjoy what you love, you will never work a day in your life. As such I intend to continue doing what brings me the most fulfillment in life. The Scout Oath and Law have been a compass throughout my life, shaping who I am and directing my path forward. I have had the same dream of being in the medical field ever since I first learned the proper way to apply band aid. As such I am committed to ensuring that I find a place within medical school. Additional experiences such as research and internships will go a long way into turning me into a competitive candidate. My father often joked about needing care later in life because of heart problems. Even as a joke, the idea stayed with me. While helping others was the intended outcome, it was never the overriding reason for my decisions. Nevertheless, a drive to assist others and aid my father were major impact points in my life. Whether my path takes me to medical school or into a career as a first responder, I will remain committed to keeping service to others at the forefront.