

Growing up my favorite thing to do was listen to my mother tell me stories about her day working in the Emergency Room as an X-ray technologist. After coming home from work, she would tell me about her hectic day and all of the fascinating cases she encountered throughout her shift. I was hooked. I begged her to let me indulge more in my newfound interest and eventually, she caved. We would watch “Untold Stories of the E.R.” for hours on end, merely fulfilling my curiosity about the medical field. To this day, I attribute my dedication to working in the field of medicine to the lifelong influences my parents have instilled in me, my shadowing experience, and my time as a student-athlete. In addition, I have demonstrated my commitment to pursuing this field by recently obtaining my Emergency Medical Technician certification.

From a young age, I was inspired by my parents who have instilled in me a deep sense of compassion and kindness and the importance of hard work and drive. My father is one of the kindest people I know. He has been a law enforcement officer for the past 20 years and as a young girl, he emphasized the importance of treating people kindly and with a sense of compassion. He took me to soup kitchens on Thanksgiving day to help feed the homeless and nearly each Christmas would pay for multiple underprivileged kids Christmas, and so much more. My mother is the strongest and hardest worker I know. Being a single mother of two girls at just 21 years old, she worked her way through X-ray school and had a job on the side to help pay for her school and children. This exposure to the values of kindness, work ethic, and a commitment to helping others has further influenced me to pursue my interests in healthcare with the intent and desire to help others.

During my four years of undergrad, I majored in Biochemistry at West Virginia University. Not knowing whether I wanted to become a Doctor or Physician Assistant, I shadowed a PA in the Emergency Department the summer going into my junior year of college and fell in love. The high-stress environment, direct patient interaction, the ability to work collaboratively with other healthcare members, and constantly changing day-to-day life were intriguing to me. I researched more about the role of a PA and found that being a Physician Assistant offered a great work-life balance, flexibility in specialty areas, and the ability to enter the workforce sooner and explore different aspects of medicine.

Throughout my four years of college, I had also been a member of the Division I swim team. Balancing rigorous academic demands with the physical and mental challenges of being a competitive swimmer has equipped me with skills and perspectives that are essential in the medical field. I have learned great time management skills, developed a strong work ethic, drive, and motivation, and learned about the importance of teamwork. The discipline and resilience I have learned as a student-athlete have greatly influenced my decision and capability to pursue a career as a Physician Assistant.

My journey toward becoming a Physician Assistant began this summer when I became certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. Obtaining my certification has allowed me to apply for a role as an Emergency Department Technician from which I will receive direct hands-on experience and a deep understanding of patient management. This role is a great way to get my foot in the door for the medical field while providing me with the patient care hours necessary to attend PA school.

In summary, the values of compassion and kindness and my strong work ethic as shown in my academic background, time as a student-athlete, and reinforced through my EMT certification have equipped me with a strong influence to become a Physician Assistant. I am eager to channel this lifelong influence into providing exceptional patient care and making a meaningful difference in the medical field.