

Personal Statement

There is a quote by Walter Elliot that states “Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.” As I have navigated life as a first-generation student, I have encountered numerous obstacles and have continued to push toward the finish line of becoming a physician assistant. I am a fighter and someone who now adapts well to foreign situations. From when I was a young girl, through a tour in the Navy, to now, as a full-time student and a full-time medical assistant, I have fought to overcome the hand that I was dealt. I believe that these qualities are my strength and will be a strong asset to the physician assistant community.

Growing up, I found myself searching for ways to problem-solve the issues that threatened to intervene with my goals. My most notable example would be the way I overcame my home life to pursue the education needed to achieve my goal. My home life was tumultuous with a father who valued his relationship with alcohol over the one he forged with his wife and daughters.

I found solace in helping my sisters feel better and quickly realized that helping others was my calling. I buried my nose in my books and learned to avoid my father’s venom by focusing on my studies. I continued to push forward, despite the difficult home situation I found myself in. I fell in love with learning and expanding my mind with the science of the human body and I suddenly saw a light at the end of a pitch-black tunnel.

When the time finally came to apply to university to continue to build the knowledge necessary to achieve my goals, I found myself forced with another difficult decision. My father had refused to help me in all ways. He refused to provide me with the information I needed to apply for financial aid and forbade my mother from providing it to me.

My mother, also a victim of my father’s torment, was forced to withhold the information from me due to the fear that overtook her body. She was then forced to choose between our safety and helping me reach my dream. She ultimately chose our safety. It was then that I knew that I could not allow this to stop me from achieving my dreams. After a bit of research, I ultimately decided to join the Navy, leaving the grasp of my father and jumping into the firm grasp of the American military.

In total, I completed five years of honorable service. I was eager to continue my path of education full-time and quickly enrolled at the local university. I was determined to achieve my goal regardless of the obstacles I faced. My first obstacle was not one that I foresaw coming, however. Once discharged, I found myself needing to adapt to the civilian world that now seemed so foreign to me. The vast differences in communication and standards shocked me in a way I was not prepared. I soon found myself struggling financially and was faced with the decision of sinking or swimming. It was here that I decided that I needed to juggle both work and school full-time.

I then found myself in the medical field working as a medical assistant, where I can confidently say that my passion for helping others has been greatly nurtured, solidifying that I’ve made the right choice when choosing my career. My adaptability and strength to persevere have proven to be my greatest strengths and I believe they will allow me to provide the best possible patient care as a result.

As a physician assistant, I will continue to use the strength to preserve that I have built throughout the years to advocate for the needs of the patients and continue to search for answers even when they remain masked. I will be the glimmer of hope shining at the end of the pitch-black tunnel when patients feel alone. This will allow me to build lasting and trusting relationships with my patients and ultimately increase positive patient outcomes.

