

Jacob Garrett  
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### Why This Path?

“You can’t control the winds but you can adjust the sails”. I keep this quote close as a reminder that life is unfair and unpredictable but we can’t let that break us down. We have to adapt and work through the rough patches that occur in life to stay on track. Why do I want to go to medical school? I wanted to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. I wanted to become an anesthesiologist because of the science behind it and the ability to have a positive impact on someone's life. I know that it will be a lot of hard work but, it's something I can be proud of and will bring me a great deal of joy.

I was about eight years old when I had a major surgery. At least it was major to me! I had to have my eyelid repaired. To be honest, I was pretty scared. It was my first time going under but after talking to the doctors they were able to put my nerves to rest by explaining, in a way a child could understand, what was going to happen. This was one of the many deciding factors for me. I was just so intrigued with how they were able to make me sleep, wake up after the surgery, and then be able to cut me without it hurting. In my little mind, at the time, it was so unbelievable and I wanted to learn more about it. Another big factor is when my mother worked as a case manager and sometimes I would walk around her office space in the hospital. By doing this I was able to see how groups of people worked vigorously just to help one person. Sometimes her friends would show me around the other parts of the hospital to see what they did. They would also talk about their achievements, awards, and what their job did. This was so interesting just because there are so many different aspects of a hospital and each of them was proud of their work. It was also interesting to see that both the patient and the doctors had a positive impact on each other moods, sometimes this impact was long-lasting. Another big impact of why I'm committed to medical school is because of my father. Now he does not have a single drop of medical experience, he is a baker. It is what he said to me that will help me stick with medical school. My father had been working for the same company for what seems like forever, but he couldn't be happier about it, it seems like he is always happy to work. One day I asked him about work, thinking it was exactly that, just work. At that time I couldn't see why someone would have fun doing work that seemed boring, but then my father spoke the words that would forever change my whole mindset about work. He put it simply, “Work is only work because you simply don't enjoy what you are doing. I enjoy what I do so it is never work.” At first, it didn't make sense in my head, because again, thinking work can't be fun. It was hard to ignore that basis, but then I understood what he meant and the difference it makes. I realized this difference when I was volunteering for a food shelter which is technically work and I knew that but I was still excited about it. Then it clicked in my head what he meant and the difference in the feeling. This fits well with medical school because it is something that can be scary. It is a competitive field, it can be stressful, and it is a lot of commitment but it is what I want to do. This is why I know I can get through medical school simply because this is what I want.

In conclusion, there are so many things that played a role in my decision to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. From watching people work, the science and subject itself, and the role models in my life. Not everything you want is going to come easy or stress-free just because it is what you want. Life is crazy and so are the obstacles that it throws at you, but you can't control that, but you can control the way you deal with it and not let it divert you off your path.

