

Personal Statement

I have always admired my parent's careers. My mom is a Physical therapist, and my dad is a Paramedic/Athletic trainer. Their jobs allowed me to spend many days at George Mason University's training rooms and sporting events. And this is where my interest in Emergency medicine was discovered. But of course, you can only see so much as a child. This led me to watch TV shows like Night Watch. However, I wanted to know more about what happens after somebody arrives at the hospital. Nonetheless, a couple of years later, I got to experience my first interaction in an emergency room.

At this point in my life, I am a junior in high school, and school is online due to Covid. This allowed my anatomy and physiology class to interview various doctors virtually. One in particular that stood out to me was the Optomologist. She talked about her journey to become one. I explained to my class that it took many sacrifices to get there, and she said it was a rewarding journey. Hearing her talk cemented that I wanted to start my path to becoming a doctor.

Later in the summer, I finally got hands-on experience volunteering at my local hospital. This is where I spent two weeks in various hospital spots like the front desk, post-op wing, and the Emergency room. Because of this, I got to see multiple people, some there for happy reasons and others not so much. I watched the staff being kind and caring to all stuck out to show that there are people in Healthcare who are genuinely there to improve other lives. When it was my time to help a patient, I felt confident I could assist. I remember walking into this shift and doing my usual routine of visiting all the rooms I had been assigned to check in on. I came across this patient who had a tracheostomy, making it difficult for him to talk. I also learned from their nurse that he only spoke Spanish, which became a challenge for me as I needed to gain more knowledge of the language. But my job was to make sure the patient was comfortable, like giving blankets or finding snacks. Because it was late in the evening, all the translators were gone or busy, so I had to find a way to communicate with this man. So I pulled out my phone and used Google Translate to converse with him. Little did I know that we would end up having a 3-hour conversation. After I went home that night, I realized this was where I wanted to be; even though it took a little creativity, it was where I wanted to be.

Lastly, my time at ODU has aided my journey into becoming a doctor. In freshman year, I joined the Pre Health ILC. This is where I got to take a specialized class for Pre-Health students. This has allowed me to meet current medical students and hear them talk about their experiences. I have also started EMT school, where I hope to gain more hands-on experience. Overall, the combination of life experiences I have had so far gives me a good understanding of what it will take to get into Medical School and become a Board-certified Doctor.