I am glad to share, as a medical student in clinical medicine major, why I am applying to this program, from the perspective of personal interest and my career outlook to contribute to a broader world.

Basically, I have trained well in general clinical education, from human biology in health and disease, to hands-on exposure to clinical medicine. Thus, I have a solid medical background and fundamental knowledge of multidisciplinary areas, e.g., biology, sociology, psychology, and data analysis. Currently, as a 5-th year medical student, I am undergoing my one-year clinical clerkship in a public hospital in Harbin, Hei-long-jiang Province. During this time, I rotate as an internship in four major departments interacting with real patients much as a physician does, receiving supervision and teaching from experienced doctors, and working closely with colleagues of different positions like nurses, pharmacists, and technicians. These practical experiences give me a big picture of how a real-world healthcare organization is operated and greatly promote my communication skills and critical thinking, to efficiently handle any complex, challenging situation. More importantly, helping people and saving lives makes me always keep medical ethics and the awe of life in my mind. I appreciate it.

So, why I am veering my career direction from saving individuals’ life as a doctor to healthcare management? I consider the three-year COVID-19 epidemic is a key factor. During my undergraduate studies, the pandemic was acknowledged as a worldwide challenge, public health interventions and the rapid development of medical products like vaccines were key approaches to protect people. At that difficult time (Feb. to Aug., 2020), as a medical student, as well as a stakeholder of social interests, I acted as a front-line volunteer to perform infectious disease control measures, epidemiological surveillance and analysis, contributing to the community with my professional knowledge. This social experience implied to me that, in order to balance risks and benefits and ensure the maximization of public interests, any decision-making with complex interactions between the public and the government-medical-industry systems, including public health interventions on the general population, pharmaceutical policies and vaccination strategies, needs to be supported by professional knowledge from multidisciplinary domains. Such knowledge may cover human, animal, and environmental health, which is exactly what the One Heath approach tries to address. In summary, the public health crisis of COVID-19 has raised my interest in thinking about the cost and boundary of interventions of disease prevention, as well as the relationship and interaction among individuals and other health-related entities. As a result, I am seeking a non-clinical career direction with broader social interests involved.

Huge efforts have been made to achieve this career goal. Basically, I have performed well in academics with a GPA of 90.05/100, ranking 11 among all 332 students in clinical medicine major (top 3.31%). Additional to in-class education, I participated in a group project on online health platform design as a product manager, contributing with clinical and HEOR perspectives in requirements identification and prototyping, which achieved success in a university-wide assessment. After taking the medical immunology course, I wondered how state-of-the-art therapies are developed. Hence, in 2020 fall, I joined a wet-lab research group in pharmacology, where I was allowed to master critical biotechniques, exploring natural products for cancer immunotherapy with rodent models. As a research output, an original research article authored by me and my supervisor has been submitted for peer review, in which I benefited by being trained in a cycle from scientific hypothesis generation, experiment design and implementation, to statistical analysis and manuscript drafting. As mentioned above, I have fought the COVID-19 pandemic as a volunteer, contributing to social good with medical knowledge. Anyway, I have been prepared well for the next stage of my life, and to pursue my long-term career goals in healthcare management.