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 individual healthcare to disease prevention in the population. Thus, I have a solid medical background and fundamental knowledge of multidisciplinary areas, e.g., sociology, psychology, logic, and ethics. Currently, as a 5-th year medical student, I am spending my one-year clinical clerkship in a Tertiary (III class) 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, under the direction of the clinical mentors, 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 entity is operated and greatly promote my communication skills and critical thinking, to 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 and medicinal administration? 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. In China, infectious disease control measures like the widespread use of nucleic acid tests, identifying and tracking close contacts, and even lockdowns used to be applied as critical strategies to achieve the zero-COVID policy. Such strategies made sense by the mean of saving lives, while criticisms were also raised due to many public concerns like economic cost or compliance. It 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 pharmaceutical policies and vaccination strategies, needs to be supported by evidence-based, professional knowledge from multidisciplinary domains. Actually, 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. In summary, this social experience has raised my interest in thinking about the cost and boundary of intervention on the general population, as well as the relationship and interaction between individuals and society. As a result, I would like to veer my career path to a new direction with broader social interests involved.

I have made huge efforts 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 clinical 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 outcome, 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 drawing. 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.