

AMSA Board of Officers 2012-2013 Application



1. Explain your interest in serving as this board position. If you are applying for multiple positions, briefly describe your interest in each.

Topping off my last year in AMSA board as VP of Membership would be a good progression for me. Having served on AMSA board for two years now, VPM attracts me because I feel that I am now ready to serve our organization in this way. When I first joined AMSA as a freshman, my first memory was of the VPM greeting me as I entered the meeting room and helping me get acquainted with our organization. Her professional demeanor and friendly openness struck me and I instantly felt welcomed into the AMSA community. The VPM has always been, in my opinion, the shining face of AMSA: the person who dedicates their time and effort to create a strong membership base and open community of pre-medical students on our campus. I have tried to exude this friendly openness as long as I have been on board and now, with the practical experience I have gained, I believe that I can continue the legacy of VPM and serve you, our membership, for the 2012-2013 year.

2. Explain your strengths and how they will contribute to your performance as a board member. If you are applying for multiple positions, be specific about how your strengths support each position you are applying for.

My greatest strength for the VPM position is my openness as a leader. I am very receptive to input and always try to act as a mediator. In relevant situations, I like to give the people that rely on my opinion the best of both worlds. In my opinion this is essential for the VPM position because one must create and maintain our membership base, foster a sense of community, and increase recruitment. This can only be done through careful mediation of peoples' expectations, which I can facilitate. Furthermore, my openness as a leader also reflects my social openness. I am a firm believer in complete honesty and speaking one's mind. Those of you who have met me in person know for a fact that I rarely shy down from speaking my mind. Your voice will be heard if you choose me as your VPM. My own desire to make friends within our organization will benefit our community as a whole because as premedical students we need all the support we can get. We can find this with each other and with me as your mediator, your VPM, our AMSA community will get even closer this upcoming year.

Secondly, my work as treasurer is very applicable to the "paperwork" aspect of VPM, such as keeping track of members and dues. In the upcoming year, the VPM and treasurer are supposed to work side by side to maintain concise records of membership, and as treasurer this year, I can make the process run more smoothly next year because of my added experience as treasurer.

3. Describe your experience in previous leadership roles.

Leadership experience comprises a large chunk of my life at Cal and I have extended myself as a leader in various pre-health-oriented groups on campus. I am member of the Executive Board of Global Medical Brigades at Berkeley, a service group on campus that goes to Honduras twice a year to provide basic medical care to marginalized communities in rural Honduras. This year, I have served principally as a treasurer for the group, in addition to other brigade planning logistics. It takes a lot of work to send a group of 30 students to Honduras twice a year. For our two-week trip, an entire semester's worth of work is required, which is very applicable to AMSA VPM, especially for planning banquets and the UCB Pre-Health Conference. A lot of the work I have done for GMB, and the contacts I have made will come in handy if chosen as VPM.

Furthermore, I am a co-founder and "Curriculum Development Lead" of ANJNA Patient Education at Berkeley. ANJNA stands for "A New Joint Non-profit Approach" to healthcare. Our organization researches community health and creates patient-education materials for free clinics in the San Francisco Bay Area. We serve predominantly disadvantaged and minority communities since they have the least access to health education materials, which are essential to maintaining a healthy body and avoiding disease. I am responsible for coordinating our various student-lead teams in finding health centers in need and leading them along the process of creating brochures, pamphlets, iPad modules, etc. My experience in ANJNA applies to VPM because one must coordinate various groups of people, especially when planning big events. In addition, the brochure-making process has taught me some skills in advertising, which is very important for VPM, as they are responsible for making large recruitment efforts each semester.

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Within AMSA I have previously served as the webmaster, which will aid me in the creation of recruitment materials. This year, in addition to serving as AMSA treasurer, I have served as the Cal Health Coalition (CHC) Representative. The purpose of CHC is to foster dialogue between the various pre-health groups on campus in order to promote each others' events and to create one large event each semester as a whole. I have made many contacts within CHC, which will surely serve our organization well when it is recruitment season.

4. Describe the goals you have for this position, and how you plan to achieve them. If applying for multiple positions, go into detail about your goals for each position.

My primary goal for VPM is to improve the cohesion of our AMSA community. I want us to become closer to each other because one of the advantages of AMSA is our size and presence on the UC Berkeley campus. We are the largest pre-medical student group on campus and we should reap the benefits of that awesome fact. We must create a tight-knit network of premeds within AMSA so that we may turn to each other for support and advice. The premedical student process is tough, I have to admit, but you can always make it easier for yourself if you have friends and colleagues that you can rely on. As such, I want to create more social events for AMSA so that we may create this network of friends to turn to for support. I'm not just talking about once-per-semester "pre-med mixers"; I'm talking about social gatherings as often as once per week. One of my ideas is to hold AMSA Study Sessions, because, obviously enough, being pre-med requires a lot of studying. There are many benefits to group studying because if you're able to explain the material to another person, this fosters understanding of the topic. Since AMSA is such a large organization, we can surely find a group of people studying for the same class at a given time and facilitate study groups. If you already have a study group outside of AMSA, the ideas and understanding you gain from one group can only be beneficial, right? Furthermore, if we want to create a tight-knit AMSA community, we need to get to know each other outside of general meetings, and so, I plan to initiate many little socials throughout the year such as group dinners, group movie-watching, etc. There are a lot of us in AMSA, we need to get to know each other. I recognize that ensuring attendance to socials outside of the general meeting can be a difficult task, but with enough initiative, I am sure that we can be successful in expanding our AMSA community.

Furthermore, I want to expand use of the AMSA calendar on our website and make it more of a resource for our AMSA members. I want to transform the calendar into a useful resource for premeds with important dates such as midterms (so we can plan AMSA study sessions!), Tele-Bears, dates for important education opportunities (application deadlines for internships, service opportunities, etc.), and of course, all AMSA events. Cal Health Coalition maintains a calendar with all the events of its substituent pre-health groups and it's a very useful resource. If we emulate their model and create a similar calendar there will be no opportunity missed to expand your experience as a premedical student, and as a member of AMSA.

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