

Biology BS/MS Directed Research Track: Statement of Purpose

For my future career plans, I will be applying to medical school for the upcoming cycle and I aspire to become a doctor. Additionally, I hope to pursue research in the future as I find it crucial in the advancement of medicine and improving patient care. This BS/MS Directed Research Track is something I immediately took interest in once I heard about it. I have been very involved at UCSD and have participated in many opportunities to help me prepare for the medical field, however I have not yet had the privilege of doing research. I am a first generation college student and I am very proud to be here at UCSD obtaining my Bachelors of Science in general biology while doing so in just three years. Just this past year I had the opportunity to co-found the Alpha Miracle Foundation student organization on campus where our mission is to host free health clinics and provide basic needs to the community locally and abroad. As this past year's President I hope this organization continues to flourish and continuing my education at UCSD may also allow me the proximity to assist in this organization's expansion and development. I am beyond passionate about volunteering, enhancing my education, and am very career driven. Currently I work in the Environment Health and Safety Department where I do many tasks involving upkeep of health records pertaining to COVID-19 and transporting students to isolation housing. With all this in mind, I hope to take the many skills I have learned and continue to stay passionate about what I find interesting and believe in.

I am very interested in biology research and what this directed research track has to offer. I want to learn more about neuroscience, molecular biology, genomics, developmental biology, and more. At the age of three, my little brother began to show symptoms of withdrawal and regression. As soon as my brother started preschool, his teachers identified his symptoms and sent him to a formal diagnosis specialist. With this, autism became a part of my life. I spent a significant amount of time talking to his doctors about various symptoms and medications. This made me interested in brain function as the doctors exclaimed how a normal brain functions and how my brother's brain was functioning, I realized how complex the mind was and drew me towards neuroscience. I would love to study the autistic brain someday and find new ways for children with special needs to communicate with their families and the rest of the world. This encompasses my desire to focus on autism spectrum disorder and its intersection with neurobiology. It would be very interesting to do research on brain development and examine the many factors relating to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

All in all, I hope to gain experience in research and continue my higher education here at UCSD. I obtained an Associates Degree in Social Behavior along with three other degrees and furthering my knowledge and understanding in the fields I am passionate about will hopefully help me to succeed in my future career as a doctor. Biology research specifically is something I hope to never put aside, as research will help to keep me updated on the uniqueness and advancement in medicine and how to best support others. With my many experiences and aspirations I hope to make a large impact and strive to further my knowledge in hopes of making applicable discoveries and aid to the growth in healthcare.