

Mizzou Medical Student Personal Statement #3

From childhood through high school, I was a dedicated baseball pitcher. Although blessed with good arm strength and excellent hand-eye coordination, success during the game was directly related to my commitment to practice. Years of throwing fifty pitches a night, paying close attention to details and heeding instruction from professional pitching coaches led to the fulfillment of one of my goals: competing in national championship tournaments. Building upon the formula for success on the baseball field, I applied the same level of energy and commitment to my studies and interest in medicine. During high school, I volunteered at multiple medical facilities, earned licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician and worked in a hospital. Interested in pursuing a career in medicine, I applied for and was selected as a Conley Scholar, which offered conditional acceptance to medical school as a high school senior.

Medical school provided the opportunity to explore many different specialties. After gaining experience with head and neck disorders, I developed a strong desire to pursue a career in otolaryngology. Initially, otolaryngology attracted my interest because of the balance of clinical and surgical duties as well as the opportunity to treat patients of all ages. Upon further exploration, I found the diverse mix of presenting problems interesting and the prospect of working with intricate anatomy and vital structures exciting. I know otolaryngology is the profession for me because I want to learn as much as I can, whenever I can. On weekends, I volunteered for extra call with otolaryngology residents caring for head and neck trauma patients. In addition, I assisted with an “outreach” head and neck cancer screening and participated in microsurgical suturing and laryngoscopy labs with otolaryngology faculty and residents. As a third and fourth year medical student, I participated in operations spanning all of otolaryngology’s specialties and contributed to the care of patients pre- and postoperatively. I began to appreciate the contribution that otolaryngologists make to patients’ lives.

The hands-on experience broadened my interest, increased my motivation, and strengthened my desire to pursue a career in otolaryngology. More importantly, working with the faculty and residents illustrated the degree of compassion, dedication, and hard work essential to providing patient-centered care. I learned that doctors are no strangers to disappointment and frustration but also witnessed the sense of accomplishment that comes when a patient is successfully treated.

Having established my desired career path, I am looking for an institution that challenges thinking, fosters new ideas and provides opportunities to improve technical skills. Strong faculty and innovative practices are important considerations. I am particularly interested in a program that provides a broad-based learning experience.

I have worked diligently to develop strong academic and professional skills. The hands-on medical training reinforced my career choice. I am committed to my goal of becoming an otolaryngologist and eager to continue the learning process. My academic standing, clinical training, and strong work ethic reflect my motivation to succeed.