

Mizzou Medical Student Personal Statement #1

For as long as I can remember medicine interested me. As I learned more about the medical field and its differences worldwide, I found myself wanting to explore my Chinese and American heritage through studying oriental vs western medicine in Hong Kong. I planned on doing this after I graduated from college, but when I received my acceptance letter to medical school, I moved forward into my future career.

In medical school, learning the fundamental principles in textbooks and applying them to solve patient scenarios was exciting and unlike any previous problem solving I had done. Understanding how to interpret patients' symptoms and the way in which to ask questions to obtain an accurate history was thought provoking, as it oftentimes reflected on cultural and educational differences. Discovering how the treatment for a condition in various patients could be different pending their allergies, particular symptoms, and their values in life, essentially the art of medicine, caught my attention. It motivated me to work hard for each of my patients so that they could be satisfied and provided patient centered care.

While on the medicine wards, I found myself learning the art of medicine and enjoying the vast array of common and uncommon diseases that medicine physicians diagnose and treat. Medicine doctors typically manage several ailments in just one patient, and in order to provide optimum care, the physician must understand the pathophysiology of each patient's problems, balancing treating the primary illnesses without damaging other organs or worsening other existing problems. I particularly like the challenge of caring for patients whose diagnoses complicate the standard of care treatment. I find the task of managing chronic and acute problems across several organ systems intellectually challenging and rewarding.

Patients trust physicians with their health care. Having been in this position when diagnosed with thyroid cancer in medical school, I take seriously the responsibility of the doctor to all of their patients and can truly empathize with patients. I am eager to start my medicine residency, prepared to diligently work within a multidisciplinary system to appropriately manage my patients' illnesses and advocate on their behalf.

My ultimate goal is to practice the art of medicine and provide patient centered care. My personal medical history and cultural heritage give me the foundation for becoming a compassionate, caring physician. I look forward to beginning the next step in my training through participation in your residency program.