

Since high school I have been working to help my family financially. My mother is a homemaker, and my father lost his business in 2009 along with our family home in the economic crash. We were displaced and have financially struggled ever since. I have overcome many financial barriers completing my undergraduate degree. In 2015, I persevered by obtaining a B.S. in Biology in which I also graduated with honors.

Unfortunately, the financial hardship continued to persist once I finished my undergraduate degree in 2015. My father fell ill with a terminal cancer and was unable to work and my mother also fell ill with many of her own health issues. The responsibility of taking care of my parents fell on my shoulders. As a result, I have not had enough money to spend on finishing the new required courses for medical school, the Medical College Admissions Test, and medical school applications.

My achievements in research have been completing a cancer biomarker research internship from January 2010-September 2013 in which my team and I made progress in the earlier detection of prostate cancer. My community involvement includes a 325-hour volunteer program as a Clinical Care Extender Medical Intern at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, California from September 2010-September 2011. During my time at St. Francis Medical Center I assisted doctors and nurses in bathing and feeding patients, answering call lights, preparing patient rooms, escorting patients at discharge and providing comfort care services to patients and their families.

Although I have completed my bachelor's degree, the path in which I must take to become a medical doctor requires many more steps. I must take the 8-hour Medical College Admissions Test, which is the entrance exam that covers the following topics: critical analysis and reasoning skills, behavioral sciences, biochemistry, biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and mathematics. By taking the exam I hope to obtain a competitive score and become accepted to a medical doctorate program that will take four years to complete. Upon completion of the medical doctorate, I wish to complete my 2 to 3-

year residency (medical training) in the United States in hopes of becoming highly trained in a medical specialty. Although it is very difficult to say what area of expertise I will specialize in, I firmly believe my future medical practice will focus on the health and care of women and children.

I have been touched by doctors who travel abroad to rural areas to surgically correct cleft-lip in children and perform basic health checks for women and children in desperately poor areas around the world. This has greatly impacted my decision to pursue a medical doctorate program. My long-term goal after completing my education and training is to help people in under-developed countries, particularly women and children, who do not have access to basic health care. I would also like to become a medical instructor in underprivileged communities in the United States and abroad after all my own training has been completed to inspire younger generations to change the lives of people everywhere in the world.

I have been working extremely hard to continue my education at Coastline and have persevered through very difficult times in order to stay on the path to becoming a practicing doctor. I will continue to work towards my dream no matter how long it will take me because I cannot imagine pursuing any other career. This scholarship will help me pursue my dream and help people in my community and globally.