

Personal Statement for Emergency Medicine

My definition of the consummate physician has always been one who is equipped to respond to any medical situation: the knowledge to manage a cardiac arrest, a calm but aggressive attitude to stabilize a patient with a gunshot wound, an understanding of behavioral sciences to contend with a suicidal patient, and also the patience to diagnose a pediatric ear infection at 2 AM. The prospect of working in an Emergency Department characterizes the type of physician I have strived to become.

Emergency medicine offers a number of challenges that I find appealing. Being the first to form a diagnosis is exciting; forming a differential is akin to solving mysteries. As the Emergency room detective, it is my role to assess, diagnose and form a treatment plan often with little time and clues to help solve the case. Moreover, I am interested by the variety of pathophysiology observed in an Emergency Department. Having enjoyed all of my clinical rotations in medical school, I am drawn to Emergency Medicine because it integrates the practice of every field of medicine into an acute setting. I also enjoy the opportunity to perform procedures that directly impact a patient's disease process. The variety of patients and diagnoses, pace of work, and procedures attract me to the Emergency Department.

I believe I have the personality traits necessary to thrive in an Emergency Department. In my opinion, an effective Emergency physician has the qualities of a good leader and also a good teammate. I have developed these traits through my extra-curricular activities. In medical school, I have organized and been a part of groups to collect anti-retroviral medications for third world countries, concerts to benefit local charities, committees to develop the medical school curriculum, and social clubs to promote martial arts and music. I consider these qualities to be vital in leading an Emergency Department team caring for critically ill patients.

I have prepared myself to embrace the responsibilities of Emergency Medicine. Although my ideals developed at a young age, they were reinforced during my work as a medical assistant at a Walk-In Clinic and Emergency Department prior to medical school. Here I met a number of my mentors. They instilled in me a commitment to the well-being of my patients, mastery of the medical literature and skill set, and a desire to continue to develop the field of medicine. In turn, I will continue to apply this dedication to medicine in the Emergency Department when faced with significant decisions such as treatment in the ER versus in hospital versus at home.

As a future Emergency physician, I have a number of goals. I wish to work in an academic institution where I can be involved in teaching and research. As a senior, I have really enjoyed teaching the underclassmen. After completing my Master's in Nutritional Sciences, I have gained an avid interest in experimental and clinical studies and am intrigued by the possibilities of research in Emergency Medicine.

The detective, the leader, the scientist. These qualities describe both an Emergency physician and the physician I want to become. I have worked diligently in medical school at developing the qualities necessary to practice Emergency Medicine. I look forward to continuing this effort in residency and throughout my career. Thank you for considering my application.