

Example of Urology Personal Statement 3

It became apparent to me that I wanted to become a urologist on the second day of my urology clerkship. This was the day I met C.W., a 44 year old woman with T4 urethral carcinoma invading the pubis. I was fortunate enough to participate in her surgery: an anterior exenteration, Indiana pouch creation, extensive vaginal reconstruction, and seed placement for brachytherapy. This 12-hour collaboration amongst two urologists, a gynecologist, and a radiation oncologist truly amazed and inspired me. I was impressed not only by the skill required for the operation, but also by the dedication to providing C.W. with the best care possible throughout the course of her treatment. From this moment on, I was excited about urology.

Throughout my clinical rotations, I began to appreciate what qualities I value in a specialty. I learned that I want to treat a diverse patient population with a spectrum of pathologies that can be managed both medically and surgically. I also realized that I am seeking a field that will allow me to utilize my interpersonal skills to create long-term relationships with patients. I was delighted to find that urology has everything I am seeking and more. I am fascinated by the breadth of diagnostic and imaging modalities, surgical approaches, and advanced technologies that are routinely utilized in this ever-changing field. Furthermore, I am inspired by the urologists' commitment to research, education, and patient care both in the clinic and in the operating room.

A unique strength that is critical in urology is the ability to approach sensitive topics with tact and compassion. I began developing this skill during my substance abuse research and mental health counseling positions prior to medical school. I continued to foster this skill through Bridging the Gaps, where I worked with women facing difficult psychological and social problems. During my clerkships, both attendings and residents noticed my ability to deal with delicate topics with maturity and composure. They would often assign me to patients with issues ranging from infertility to erectile dysfunction, and I would happily accept these challenges. I utilized this strength with C.W., where I felt comfortable discussing how her condition affected both her urinary and sexual function. Another strength I hope to utilize as a urologist is manual dexterity, something I began developing through my hobbies. Knitting, jewelry-making, and painting have allowed me to develop steady hands, and I look forward to continuing to advance this skill during my training. While my hobbies are mostly individual activities, I also enjoy working with others and have numerous team experiences. Through sports, Boston Cares, JeffHOPE, and living in a co-ed medical fraternity, I have learned how to balance being a leader with being a team player. This has contributed to me working well on teams during my clerkships, and I know that this will serve as a strength throughout urology residency and beyond.

I am thrilled that I discovered urology and am eager to begin training in this stimulating field. I envision myself practicing in an academic setting where I can spend time not only in the clinic and operating room, but also in clinical research and teaching. I look forward to beginning a residency program that will expose me to the many possibilities within urology, promote my intellectual development, challenge me daily, and allow me develop into a well-rounded, well-trained urologist.