

Physicians Assistant Personal Statement (Important Details Changed)

My decision to become a primary care physician assistant came after almost four years of working and volunteering in the healthcare field. As an Emergency Room Technician at a busy City Z hospital, I often see patients without a primary care physician. With the current shortage of primary care providers in a changing healthcare system, I believe a physician assistant would best fill that role, delivering high quality health-care to patients with both competence and compassion.

As with many mature students, healthcare is a second career for me. Upon graduating college, I entered the film industry working as a producer's assistant for almost 7 years until I was promoted to the position of Director of Film Production at Company X. At a film shoot involving the healing effects of Thailand's hot springs, my longtime passion for the sciences and healthcare resurged. I subsequently began working as a volunteer medical assistant at the Medical Institution Y. This was my first experience with clinical medicine. Over three years, I saw over 7,000 dermatology patients and assisted physicians in treating skin cancer and other dermatological conditions.

When the 20XX earthquake and tsunami hit Sri Lanka, leaving hundreds cold, homeless, and in need of medication, I collaborated with friends at Company N and the Red Cross to organize a local fundraiser. As an American of Sri Lankan origin, I felt morally compelled to help. Using film industry contacts and social networking sites, I appealed to the communities of Los Angeles to mobilize support. Five months later, I visited one of the hardest hit areas in Sri Lanka to help with the disaster cleanup. Despite all of the tragedy and loss of life, there was also a sense of hope, as people from around the world came together to help in the relief effort. This life-changing experience led to my passion for emergency medicine.

Consequently, I volunteered in the Emergency Medicine Department at Hospital R where I collaborated within an interdisciplinary team of clinicians and witnessed the positive impact that a skilled healthcare provider could have on trauma and critical care patients. I eventually decided to volunteer at the ER of Medical Center U in order to obtain a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of a PA. In the 15 months that I worked at Medical Center U, I was able to observe and assist PAs in medical procedures and physical examinations. I also completed my Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification and expanded my understanding of medical science.

The courses that I have taken to complete my PA prerequisites have enabled me to become a better EMT and clinician. My coursework in Microbiology impressed upon me the importance of preventing nosocomial infections through appropriate hygiene and universal precautions. In Human Anatomy, I learned the reasons why splints for fractures are applied in specific ways to aid in healing. Biochemistry helped me to better understand fluid composition and electrolyte balance of the IV fluids that my patients receive. In short, my recent studies have provided me insight into understanding how to provide better care for my patients and I am committed to being the best student I can be. I am also a tutor and Supplemental Instruction coach in Human Anatomy and Physiology at College V, where I mentor underserved students and provide them with access to educational resources. For the past year and a half, I have worked as an ER Technician at Saint X Medical Center in City X15. In that time, I have seen over 10,000 urgent care and critically ill patients. My performance evaluations have credited me for being "great with patient care" and remaining "calm under pressure." I am very proud of the positive impact I have had on my patients, as well as my peers.

Still, I want to do more to serve my patients, and I believe that becoming a PA will allow me to achieve that goal.