STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

My ideal career is one that continues to challenge and educate me throughout my life. Through my experiences in the healthcare field, I have seen that medicine would be the best path for me to achieve these aims. Through shadowing, I was able to see that each patient is unique. For instance, two people with the same symptoms may have two very different ailments. This means that each patient presents a new puzzle and doctors need to have great analytical skills in order to decode and address problems. Being a doctor takes a lot of ingenuity, combining symptoms and medical knowledge to make the best-informed decision. Seeing this complexity of medicine is one of the main reasons I was drawn to the field. Furthermore, while volunteering in the hospital and gaining exposure with research, I saw that medicine is an ever-changing field that brings innovations in procedures, technology and treatments over time. The continual effort for progress is something I wish to be a part of to further medical knowledge and help improve patient care.

In addition to the intellectual benefits, there is a gratification and unique opportunity that medicine offers in being able to help others: to provide them comfort, relieve their fears and teach them about their health. I've realized that a patient's relationship with their doctor is unlike any other I've witnessed. Patients are vulnerable with their doctors and I've learned that being involved in a person's well-being is both a big responsibility and a great privilege. The relationship is built on trust, communication and guidance. I would love a career where I could make a difference in a person's quality of life by giving them a deeper understanding of their bodies and a better ability to take care of themselves. I am confident that pursuing medicine as a career is the best path for me. I am applying to medical school to gain the training and education necessary to reach that goal.
My undergraduate major helped me realize my goal because it was the science surrounding medicine that initially drew me to the field. I majored in biology and I always enjoyed my science classes because they gave me a better understanding of the world by teaching me the mechanics that govern it. Above all else, I loved learning about the body in my physiology classes. Those were the times when I never had to try to pay attention; the topics naturally peaked my interest and as my breadth of knowledge developed, my interest deepened and my drive to learn grew. The opportunity to learn what I'm interested in and to be able to apply that knowledge is the basis for my decision to apply to medical school.

The medical schools I decided to apply to are those with a progressive program that starts preparing students for their future medical career immediately. For example, several of these schools pair first year students with patients to give them immediate clinical exposure. Many schools have student run clinics to participate in, which provides a great opportunity for additional experience and training. These schools also have strong research departments. I know research has a close relationship with medicine; I enjoy doing research and would like to continue in medical school. I also want to attend a school that is open and responsive to input from students and fosters a friendly and inviting community. By talking to students from each school, I have seen that they are happy, are part of a collaborative environment and are confident that the education that they are receiving will well prepare them to become capable doctors.

I am very excited to apply to medical school and start the first step in my journey to becoming a doctor. Medicine offers me everything I want in a career and I am confident that applying to medical school is the correct decision for me.