

My educational goal is to seek a degree in Biology combined with Chemistry, and to study a program that will prepare me well for entrance to medical school. This will support my overall career goal of becoming a physician, with a specialty in dermatology. I have applied to several public and private universities that offer a rigorous "pre-medicine" course of study, with a record of high acceptance rates into medical schools from their graduates.

I have followed a high school academic course of study that is concentrated on a solid math foundation and science courses that meet or exceed the minimum University of California admissions requirement. This includes preparation in high level Algebra and Calculus, as well as Honors Chemistry, Physics and Anatomy and Physiology. Prior to high school, I was fortunate enough to benefit from science and math enrichment programs offered through UC Riverside over the summer during the seventh and eighth grades. These programs were instrumental in instilling my belief that females could compete in the subjects of math and science with males.

I also give credit to the mentoring shown to me by both my parents. In my early childhood, they enrolled me in after school math tutoring in order to supplement my in-classroom instruction. It wasn't homework help, but rather advanced learning in the subject area of math. Through consistent repetition of math concepts, classroom instruction became easier for me.

In my earliest memories of going to school, I don't believe either of my parents ever missed a parent teacher conference. The cumulative effect over time was that my parents were both very involved in my education, and demonstrated their commitment to it by investing their time.

But my overarching reason for my persistent drive to become a physician is likely due to my experience with open-heart surgery at the age of three. This surgery, was necessary to correct a heart defect I was born with known as "Atrial Septal Defect." When this heart defect was first detected at birth, my parents were told that it was not "life-threatening" but that it did need to be corrected through surgery.

My memories of the day of the surgery and post-operative were purely positive. It's fair to say that my first experience with Loma Linda Children's Hospital was an experience I will never forget. All staff workers, nurses, doctors including the surgeon, were all so very nice and attentive to me. I truly felt that I being taken care of by loving, caring people at all hours of the day:

The lasting impression I have is how much I want to be like those who took care of me. I want to help heal people. I want to learn the skills necessary to assist people who need medical attention. I want to be a physician.

I very much feel that my career path has been laid out for me. My K-12 educational experience has been at a school within a 'stones throw' of the hospital where my surgery was performed. My religion is one that values service to others. Through my personal experience, I now value the gift of service given to me. It is my turn to reciprocate and be of service to the community that gave it to me.