

“Every tooth in a man’s head is more valuable than a diamond.” – Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote. Born into a long line of family physicians, I learned early on the joys of healing and of making a difference in patients’ lives. I wanted to take part in the health profession, and I possessed a great desire to work one-on-one with people throughout the healing process. My knack for the scientific and careful attention to detail only amplified my childhood dream. Thus, during my undergraduate career, I set out to explore all healing possibilities. I was fortunate to be able to shadow General Practitioners, physicians of various specialties, and, most important to my present and permanent ambitions, a dentist. Each experience was valuable and I widely considered the pros and cons of each potential profession. Still, dentistry became my unwavering interest, the passion I was meant to discover. It was important to me to choose a career where I would work closely with patients from the first to last step of their care – and with these parameters, dentistry was the clear choice. General Practitioners have the opportunity to be a part of the whole patient process, but I learned that even GP’s need to refer to specialists in order to properly diagnose and treat in certain cases. With dentistry, it is all hands on – you and the patient. This is what I was looking for.

After my shadowing experiences, I solidified my decision by taking an internship with an urban dental practice and I devoted twenty hours a week for my final two years of college. As an intern, I learned the ins and outs of dental insurance, record-keeping, and patient scheduling. After my office observations, I was able to work closely with the dentists – learning the art of investigating dental conditions, diagnosis, and treatment. My internship involved a great deal of shadowing, and I learned that technical skills are important, but that dentists also need to have strong communication and interpersonal skills. The experience allowed me to hone in on these skills by practicing patient interviews and witnessing dentist-patient interactions.

Ultimately, I have a passion for helping others, a strong academic background, undying interest in the technical sciences, and shadowing experiences that cover the gamut. I am happy to have taken the time to fully explore each potential healing career, and because of this, I know that I will make a successful and contented dentist, which is precisely why I am applying to your residency program. Thank you for your consideration!