

*State below why you are interested in becoming a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. Provide information about your development for a career in Podiatric Medicine. Your essay should be limited to 4500 characters.*

My love and admiration for the field of medicine started with a long period of severe panic disorder. As a young teenager, my anxiety attacks were so frequent and paralyzing, I had barely left my house for two years. Medication, meditation, cognitive behavior therapy, and a drastic change in diet were just the few things that I tried in the hopes of ridding myself of this illness. Though, continually waking to the knot in my stomach and the pounding of my heart was only a reminder that none of these things were working. To better understand the pathophysiology of what I was experiencing, I decided to purchase some books on neurology. Looking back on it now, the knowledge, the solace, and the dreams of pursuing medicine I gained from those readings are the closest things I have ever felt to destiny. Knowing how my brain was working while I endured the feelings of panic ensured that I gradually became healthier over time. By the time my panic disorder began to fade, I was also ready to pursue college, and more specifically, the field of medicine.

In my years of undergraduate studies, I was taking some of the most challenging courses I had ever enrolled in, but learning about the mechanisms necessary for life to function absolutely fascinated me. This captivation only reinforced my interest in medicine, and catalyzed the process of looking for experiences within the field. Shadowing Neurologists, cardiologists, OB-GYNs, and pediatricians were all invaluable experiences. However, none of the respective fields and their day-to-day practice seemed to resonate with me. While working as a medical scribe at a pediatric hospital, I could not help but notice the volume of podiatrists we referred our patients to. Podiatry was an area of medicine I had little knowledge about, and being that I was feeling somewhat lost in the field I had always dreamed of, I decided to expand my horizons and began shadowing a Podiatric Physician and Surgeon. My experiences with Dr. X was extraordinary. Seeing the breadth of disease that he was diagnosing and treating on a daily basis was unlike anything I had ever experienced. On any given day, I could have been observing several variations of dermatological, neurological, and cardiovascular disease affecting the lower limbs. Some shadowing sessions included reconstructive surgery, others included general diabetic check-ups. The scope that I was seeing was alluring in ways that no other branch of medicine could compare. But the most profound aspect of the field to me was the very blatant need for practitioners fighting against the increasing level of cardiovascular disease. Diabetes especially, combined with a population that is growing older, means that a surge of additional patients, and the health of their lower limbs, will need to be attended to. Shadowing Dr. X, it was both clear and astonishing to witness him treat life threatening diseases, and to see the unmistakable gratitude displayed on the faces of his patients.

My path towards pursuing podiatry has been long and tumultuous, but for good reasons. I have spent hundreds of hours in several specialties within medicine, and in doing so, I have not only refined the type of medicine I wish to practice, but also the kind of

physician I hope to be. It is because of my diverse shadowing and work experiences within medicine, combined with the indisputable value Podiatrists like Dr. X provide to their patients, that makes me confident in pursuing the inspiring and intellectually stimulating field of Podiatry. Ultimately, it is my goal to practice and to serve in a fashion similar to that of Dr. X, balancing between inpatient and outpatient care, with a primary focus on diabetes and the other comorbidities that arise from cardiovascular disease.