

Surgery is in my blood. My father, a private practice general surgeon, is my mentor and greatest role model. He trained at [ ] University under the direction of [important doctor] and describes that experience as grueling yet rewarding. While he encouraged me to consider many fields, surgery has been an obvious choice for me. I am attracted to general surgery because it provides the opportunity to combine intellect with technical skill and the ability to apply critical decision making to a variety of clinical pictures. I enjoy the diversity of procedures and the capability to provide definitive diagnosis and treatment. The integration of technology and the constant advancement of the field through research impart the necessity of lifelong learning. Most of all, I am fulfilled by the privilege of treating surgical patients when they are at their most vulnerable. The physician-patient relationship is inimitable in that the bond between a surgeon and patient incorporates a degree of trust unsurpassed by any other in the medical field.

My unique experiences have allowed me to refine many qualities that are essential for a surgeon. My academic record clearly speaks to my hard work and motivation to learn. Throughout my undergraduate and medical education I have developed fortitude that will allow me to thrive in the rigorous schedule of a surgical residency. My training and work experience as a paramedic built a foundation of medical knowledge and cultivated my aptitude to function with grace under pressure in critical situations. Years of service in prehospital medicine also helped me to develop decisiveness and independence. During my undergraduate years I was a volunteer instructor for the [National Organization] and continued as a gross anatomy tutor during medical school. I have always been active in teaching roles and look forward to the opportunity to continue this responsibility as a resident. As a medical student I also volunteered at a free clinic for indigent patient population in north Philadelphia. The hours spent at this clinic were a valuable learning experience that honed my physical exam skills and compassion. My leadership positions in the student government and the curriculum committee fostered my communication skills and diplomacy. These traits exemplify my passion for lifelong learning and commitment to excellence.

I plan to pursue graduate medical education at an academic center. I look forward to devoting time to a research project during my residency to contribute to the vast canon of literature. Surgical oncology is a particular interest of mine. As a fourth year medical student I completed a subinternship on the surgical oncology service and thoroughly enjoyed the preoperative assessment, procedures, and postoperative follow up of oncologic patients. Although I anticipate seeking advanced fellowship training I would like more complete exposure to the many surgical subspecialties prior to deciding. Regardless of which specialty I will eventually practice, my ultimate career goals are to work in an academic setting with research and teaching responsibilities.