

With twenty five years of broadcasting experience, I recognize that I am not the most traditional resident applicant. Despite my success as a production director and on-air personality for several radio stations, I began to assess my life a few years ago and considered pursuing a career with a more defined sense of purpose. When I discussed my musings with a good friend, she said, "You should be a doctor. That would suit you." The more I mulled over her comment, the more I agreed. I had always been involved in the community and this would be a specific, hands-on way to make a contribution. In addition to working 50 to 60 hours a week, I began taking prerequisite classes and earned acceptance into medical school where I have honored in several rotations including pediatrics, internal medicine, and surgery.

During my medical education, I have come to realize that my unique life experience will be my greatest asset as a physician. I have spent years communicating with people for a living; as a result, I excel at relaying information to people in a friendly, understandable manner. Whether I am on-air reading the morning news report or explaining the importance of compliance with a treatment regimen to a patient, the underlying principle is the same: ensure the listener fully understands what is being communicated. Likewise, I have conducted countless on-air interviews over the years and have come to appreciate the importance of listening as a communication tool; patients will always find a receptive audience when talking to me.

It is my passion for patient interaction that has led me to pursue a career in family medicine. I greatly appreciate the concept of creating long-term relationships with patients, treating them year after year. In addition, I enjoy the wide array of services a physician can provide on the primary care level including caring for the whole patient, addressing any psychosocial needs they may have, and incorporating preventative care into their lives. Furthermore, family practitioners are presented with a variety of patients spanning age groups and diseases spanning organ systems. As someone who appreciates diversity throughout my work day, I will thrive in this comprehensive specialty.

In the same way my life experience has steered me toward family medicine, so has my clinical experience. My medical school offers the opportunity to complete several core rotations in the United Kingdom. Eager to experience a new culture and their approach to patient care, I pursued this course and actively assisted alongside residents overseas, performing tasks such as drawing blood, inserting IV lines and urinary catheters, taking vital signs, histories and physicals, and assisting in surgeries. The performances of the primary care practitioners were notable for their high technical skills, holistic approach to treatment, and compassionate care. I returned to the US even more determined to become a primary care physician. To that end, I will participate in 48 weeks of rotations at US hospitals as I complete my degree. Most recently, I participated in a family medicine clerkship at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare where I was involved in patient care and management from admission to discharge. Further scheduled electives in community and rural medicine will serve to make me even more useful in a wide variety of clinical settings.

Given my combined experience to date, I feel confident and prepared to contribute to a family medicine residency. Specifically, I hope to secure a position with a program that will hone me into a well-rounded, versatile physician through strenuous training. At the completion of my training, I plan to make a difference in my community by effectively communicating with my patients, translating the skills I honed in radio to the clinic.