

## DRAFT

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

After quickly stepping out of the paper gown and peeling off my gloves on the last day of my Gyn rotation, I paused for a moment to look around the OR before hastening after the patient being wheeled down to recovery. I knew then that surgery was going to have to be part of my “doctoring”. I had to chuckle – after years of involvement in emergency medicine and presidency of the EM student group – I realized that I wasn’t going to be doing Emergency Medicine after all.

For me, having the chance to go through medical school is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, an opportunity that I appreciate almost every day. I have never resented the studying - I have really enjoyed it during the didactic years and still do. I still see patient contact, clinics and conversations as a privilege. I've had very positive clinical evaluations, including A+ or honors from attendings in Medicine, Surgery, Psych. and Family Medicine. I have a strong work ethic – I begin the day early and stay late. My notes are thorough, my patient care diligent. I usually prepare ahead and try to pre-read for an upcoming lecture. I read about my new patient's conditions almost every night, in both journal articles and textbooks. I've tied many hundreds of knots, and sutured countless subcut.'s at my kitchen table (pig's feet) in preparation for the closures I was asked to do in my surgery rotation.

As I read through the “Choosing Your Specialty” texts considering my choice of profession, I felt like my personal strengths and interests were a good match with the rankings from surveys submitted by practicing OB/Gyn physicians. I love the precision of surgery and the calm under stress requirement of that aspect. Realizing the personal satisfaction of working with my hands in the healing process was truly a surprise. I have also enjoyed the clinics, both OB and Gyn. Patients are comfortable talking to me and confident in my suggestions. I'm at ease discussing sexual dysfunction, depression, even impending death with some of the cancer or HIV patients that I have had. I have found that I enjoy continuity of care.

As I close in on graduation day when I will finally have MD after my name, I can only say that it has been an incredible experience. I have truly enjoyed working with my fellow students, residents and attendings. Coming into medicine at a later period in my life than many of the students has allowed me to bring a perspective that I could never have had in my 20's. I've learned not to take myself so seriously and find some humor in my missteps. I've learned to be a team player, how to take the lead when appropriate and have confidence in my decisions.

Please consider giving me the opportunity to join your residency program. I will give in return my full commitment to hard work and excellence in patient care.