

Personal Statement

I choose Internal Medicine. In many ways, it has also chosen me. I love generating differential diagnoses, gathering data, and implementing the treatment plan. The broad scope of the field also offers constant intellectual stimulation and challenge. And the outflow of this is even more amazing—a strong and personal relationship with the patient. What's more, I am also a violinist, educator, and volunteer. As an internist, I see myself integrating all three. I want to master the skills of diagnosis, empower my patients with knowledge, and serve the uninsured in the community.

To excel at anything, it requires meticulous study and endless practice, sometimes even life-long. This cannot be truer than in medicine, where clinical evidence is constantly changing everyday. As a child I wanted to play a musical instrument and fell in love with the violin. I started taking lessons and would practice at least an hour a day. I would listen to CDs and emulate the masters until I had the intonation and dynamics just right. Not only did I develop attention to detail, I also learned discipline and how to listen to others. Now as I pursue the field of Internal Medicine, I want to apply these principles and become a master clinician who takes a clear history, performs a thorough exam, and uses evidence-based medicine to properly diagnose and treat my patients. This is my first and foremost goal.

Besides implementing effective treatment, as an internist I also want to educate my patients about their illnesses so they can take charge of them. I have always loved sharing my knowledge with others, from explaining simple algebra to 9th graders as a substitute teacher to the importance of smoking cessation to patients in clinics. I believe patient education is a key ingredient in patient care. Not only will it give them more control over their lives, it will also lessen their fear and anxiety. As an internist, I will strive to empower and equip my patients with knowledge through each visit with the hopes that together we will make tomorrow a better day.

Beyond patient encounter in the hospital, I also want to care for those in the surrounding community by being involved in free clinics, perhaps even running one with other physicians. Through my participation in free clinics for the uninsured, I was able to at least provide some healthcare screening, if not intervention, in their disease processes. Their smiles and a simple "thanks" would make my day. As an internist, I will be able to do much more for these people so they will not end up in the ER and even the ICU with their lives hanging by a thread.

In addition to hard work, education, and community involvement, I am also drawn to Internal Medicine because of its adult patient population. I appreciate being able to rationalize with my patients and the fact that most of them are mature enough to take responsibility for their illnesses. Through my interaction with faculty, fellows, and residents, I feel my temperament is also a good fit for the field. My character is professional, my personality is easy-going, my approach is analytical, my strength is flexibility, my weakness is *The Simpsons*, my secret is laughter, my imagination is *Star Trek*, my indulgence is pizza, and my fun is friends and family. My professional goal is to be a humble and respected physician.

I believe Internal Medicine is the right specialty for me and I am excited to enter this field. I want to find a program that encourages its residents to take ownership of the patients while under the guidance of the faculty who love to teach. In addition, I also want an opportunity to contribute my strengths to the program not only to make it even more outstanding, but also to make its patient care more excellent.