

## Personal Statement

I performed my first surgery in the summer of 2013. As an undergraduate, I would complete multiple stereotaxic surgeries a week by placing a guide cannula into a rat brain targeting specific structures. I would administer the anesthetic, perform the procedure, and monitor the rats post-operatively. I fell in love with the process and at the end of the summer I knew that I wanted to be a surgeon.

Likewise, education has always been a vital aspect of my life. Being surrounded by educational figures my entire life, I have gained a passion for both learning and teaching. Using this passion has allowed me to fully embrace everything that encompasses being a physician. It was through working with my dad that I learned hard work and responsibility. It was through seeing my mom work as a middle school counselor, that I gained compassion and patience. I use these values when I interact with patients of all ages. I like providing a solution to an acute problem and obtaining instant results.

I have always had an interest in orthopedics. I was a three-sport athlete in high school and sports have always been a cornerstone of my life. The idea of being able to help athletes through injury and allow them to return to competition captivated me. It wasn't until my third year of medical school that I realized orthopedics had more to offer than sports medicine. Getting to work with the hand specialists and the orthopedic trauma team, my interest for orthopedics grew even more and I knew this is what I wanted to do the rest of my life. To this point in my training, I have scrubbed and actively participated in over 150 orthopedic cases. I have been involved in the pre-op, intra-op, and post-operative care of both simple procedures and complex procedures ranging from carpal tunnel releases to complex pelvic fractures.

Finally, in addition to becoming an orthopedic surgeon, one of my career goals is to be clinical faculty, as I find teaching to be both critical to the discipline and rewarding. I found my passion for teaching in medical school, as I helped lead multiple suturing sessions and Q&A sessions for younger medical students. I hope to continue to find ways to interact at an educational level with students of all ages as I enter the next stage of my medical career. I anxiously await this next stage of training and am prepared to dedicate myself to a residency in orthopedic surgery. I look forward to the hard work and the amount of detail that the profession demands.