

Medical School and Healthcare: Before

I first became interested in dental work at a very early age. Throughout my childhood, my father carried a removable partial denture for one of his maxillary central incisors. Although at that time I was too young to understand how important dentures were to my father, I realized its significance while studying at school. Dentures not only fill in gaps in the mouth and make appearances more pleasant, but also ease the trouble of eating food with a missing tooth. During my youth, my family was incapable of paying for any dental care. Dentists were extremely costly to my family because the system of dental insurance was imperfect when I was a kid. I grew up thinking dental care was a privilege, and I wanted to make it more accessible to poorer areas.

Dental problems have been bothering my family at various times in my life. Around my third grade, one of my dad's maxillary central incisors had turned dark purple after a motorbike accident. His dentist recommended him to get rid of this dark purple tooth and replace it with a denture. However, the cost was too expensive as his dental insurance did not cover for the surgical fee. My father is not the only one who has suffered from the high cost of dental care and lack of proper knowledge. When I was young all my deciduous teeth were pulled out by myself once I found out they had become loose, which of course has led to the improper alignment of my permanent teeth. My family experiences have taught me a personal lesson on the importance of proper dental care, and I am driven to become a dentist. Although the expense of dental care is still a high cost throughout the nation, I will participate in non-profit organization in local community and provide free dental work to homeless and low-income patients periodically. At least, I am able to offer help to those who has suffered from the oral pain and costly dental care.

In order to understand more about the dental profession, I decided to volunteer in a dental office. Currently, I am qualified to help dental assistants clean the operating room after treatment and deliver dental instruments for the main dentist. As a result of working at the office, I realize that maintaining the cleanness in the operation room is extremely important. I took charge of sanitizing all the regions involved in the treatment, including the operating room, for the next patient once the therapy is finished. I was also able to closely observe how different dentists, including general dentist, orthodontist, and endodontist treat the patients. My close working relationship with the dentists not only has allowed me to appreciate how dentistry is practiced, but has also taught me how to become an effective team member and communicator.

To further improve my communication skills, I have actively sought different volunteering and work experiences in order to expose myself to different people in my community. I have volunteered for 2 years at ***** where I had the opportunity to talk to various patients and their families. I have also been a supermarket cashier, where I improved my customer service skill, and a teacher assistant at after-school programs, which provided me with an opportunity to communicate with kids and comfort them. Through my diverse experience, I have interacted with people from all walks of life. I believe this will be important to my future career as patients of all ages need a dentist who truly understands their needs and their background.

I believe I can be a successful dentist because I am a person with perseverance. I have had to overcome several obstacles before I could graduate with my bachelor's degree. My

native language is Mandarin, so the language barrier is, understandably, a factor that has influenced my study and communication with others. However, I have greatly improved my English during my studies at **** and my previous employments. I accepted part-time jobs to pay for my textbooks and daily expenses while my tuition was covered by financial aids. I have acquired invaluable experiences from these works. I recognize that advanced education would be able to broaden my horizons and assist me in realizing my dream of delivering dental care to the many families like mine who lack the knowledge and means to do so. From volunteering at *****, to my various job experiences and dental shadowing, I truly believe I am prepared to move onto the next stage of my study in order to achieve my ultimate goal.

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