

Medical School Admission Essay

As I started to think about what path I should pursue in order to build my future, my older sister who is a periodontist was a great inspiration to me. I got the chance to visit her at college when she was a senior dental student. This visit was an eye opening experience to dentistry as a career. I was enthralled by how it combines both science and art all while being able to help people at the same time. I decided to pursue a dental career path so I applied to the dental school at King Abdulaziz University Faculty of dentistry (KAUFD) in my hometown Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and I got accepted. I graduated in 2013 with a bachelor degree in dental medicine and surgery.

Throughout the years I spent at the dental School, I found myself interested in restorative dentistry. Restoring patients' dentition and smiles is a challenge that requires strong artistic elements. I believe I do have this sense of art. As a child I have always observed my father drawing and painting. I would sit next to him trying to mimic his work on my sketchbook and as I grew older I started to have my own works. Restorative dentistry is also about details and precision. My interest in drawing helped me to pay attention to small details and at the same time visualize the overall complexity of the restorative and esthetic procedures I am working on.

After graduating from the dental school, I finished a one-year internship-training program. During this year I worked five months as a general dentist at different government hospitals in Jeddah. I spent the rest of the year working at different departments at my dental school (KAUFD). The time I spent at KAUFD allowed me to closely observe the academic environment not as a student but as an intern dentist. I found myself interacting with faculty members, helping junior students, working at the general dentist clinics, attending lectures, and assisting residents at the restorative residency program. I found the academic environment to be the perfect place for continuous professional growth. For that reason, I decided to pursue a dental academic career path that enables me to create and follow my interests in teaching, clinical practice, and research. I got a full time job as a demonstrator in the department of operative dentistry at KAUFD.

As a clinical demonstrator everyday at work presents its own set of challenges. I supervise the restorative procedures of the undergraduate dental students in the primary and comprehensive care clinics. Each student has different level of clinical knowledge and skills which make it uneasy to anticipate their performance. Beside my supervision duties, I work in the general dentist clinics at the university treating patients with advanced restorative needs with the help of specialists from the other departments. I love the process of treatment planning, discussing the cases with colleagues, and giving each other advices.

The opportunity to be involved in research projects during my internship year enabled me to gain the basics skills needed to conduct a study and write a manuscript. I worked with a group of researchers at KAUFD on a project evaluating the efficacy of computerized dental simulator on improving cavity preparation skills for students. I was a co-author on that study and it was published in the journal of King Abdulaziz University for medical science. I also participated in another retrospective study assessing the success and survival rate of crown and bridge constructed at KAUFD. I was responsible of collecting and analyzing data on this project.

Today, the field of dentistry has expanded. The information in the dental literature became extensive with new techniques and materials evolving which require highly trained and knowledgeable dental specialists working as a team. Therefore, I am looking forward to join an advanced training program in restorative dentistry. In a residency program, I want to build strong literature knowledge and improve my clinical skills by deliberate practice. I want to learn more about the advanced restorative techniques and dental materials. The residency program will also expose me to a wide range of cases with complex needs, which require an interdisciplinary approach. Those kinds of cases will improve my skills on diagnosis and treatment planning.

As I am writing my personal statement, I am finishing my reading of "Talent is overrated" a book written by Geoff Clovin. The author ended his book saying, "Great performance is not reserved for a preordained few. It is available to you and to every one" only with deliberate practice.

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