

Personal Statement

For Application to Professional School

July 13, [REDACTED]

I was born in [REDACTED] to parents who emigrated from India looking for a better life. They initially leased, and then owned, a 23-room motel where it was expected my brother and I contribute as much as possible for the betterment of our family and our future security. Witnessing my parents pursue their dream of success in the United States, I now understand that they consciously chose to embrace the values that dictated their actions; these values shaped the man I became and are the strongest characteristics of my personal foundation: integrity, commitment, service and kindness.

In an effort to ensure I fully absorbed the Indian and Eastern cultures, my parents enrolled me in boarding school in India where I lived between ages eight and 12. As a child born and raised in the West, living without my parents and attending school in an under-developed country impacted me in ways it would take years to fully understand. In retrospect, my time in India exposed me to a way of life and personal experiences that I would never have appreciated in the U.S., and these experiences eventually lead me to my chosen career, healthcare practitioner.

In India, I uncovered one of my biggest passions: soccer. I loved – and still love – the camaraderie of the team, the diversity of roles working together to create one unified group, creating strategy to excel and win, and the leadership skills I developed on and off the field. Soccer and team sports became a constant in India and back in the U.S., throughout high school and college. I was a player and defensive captain on school teams and private clubs, and I have served as the Executive Sports Coordinator for the [REDACTED] Society. My position with the Society has provided me invaluable experience coordinating multiple sponsorships, planning awareness campaigns, and pursuing philanthropic interests.

For as long as I can remember, my Dad has been self-conscious about his teeth. He fell as a child and, due to the trauma, his two front teeth had to be removed. For years, he wore a partial flipper. It wasn't until a family friend studying dentistry offered to create and place a bridge that my father was able to fully smile. The bridge not only restored his smile, but also added a boost of self-assuredness he somehow lacked before. I witnessed – firsthand – how good dental health changed one's life.

As I progressed through school, I began to explore potential healthcare professions and considered where my talents may best be utilized. I researched medical doctors and worked as a pharmacy technician, but my father's dental experiences were never far from my mind. And after my first job shadowing experience in the summer of [REDACTED], everything fell into place – I realized with absolutely certainty that dentistry was my future. For me, dentistry provides the perfect blend of patient care, arts and sciences.

Over the past few years, I've had the honor of working with professionals whom I now call mentors. I've job-shadowed at several practices and labs throughout Oklahoma City and I've volunteered through [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], Panama; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]); and [REDACTED] Organization. I recently earned my Dental Assistant certification and currently work as a dental assistant at the University [REDACTED] College Of Dentistry in Advanced Education in General Dentistry.

Throughout my experiences, I've learned that good oral health is not only a component of good physical health, but also an element that provides clear indications to the state of physical health – one provides evidence as to the nature of the other. Although dentists are treating conditions specific to oral health, the dental professional's obligation is the same as all other healthcare providers – being a conduit of quality, appropriate, ethical patient care; practicing with integrity; and acting as the patient's advocate.

I eagerly await the continuation of my dental education and my entrance into the practice of dentistry. Research has shown the vast continuum that oral health effects: diet, nutrition, sleep, psychological health, social interaction... I'm passionate about my future as a dentist, and I look forward to the responsibility of providing my future patients and team members well-being and quality of life through sound dental practices.

About This Project

N. Patel:

"The experience I had working with Kate was remarkable, not only because she was able to provide me with a very professionally written personal statement, but she also provided great service and helped me stay calm at a really stressful time. She always listened to feedback about what I wanted and didn't want, and things I thought should be changed.

"Kate brought a lot of experience and was able to make suggestions when I was confused about where the statement should go. I was really pleased with my experience with Kate and the personal statement she provided me. I would highly recommend Kate to all because she is not only skilled and knowledgeable, but she provides great service in a very reasonable amount of time."