Personal Statement

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Imagine, a young teenager beaming with excitement over going to the dentist. Ready to talk to the professionals about what they do on a daily basis. As much as that is hard to envision, I was that young teenager. Although my memory of this time is faint, I remember being ecstatic to walk into the dental office and observe what the dental hygienist and dentist were going to do that day. My mother always went first, as we went to one of the family practices in our town. I would always ask questions to both professionals and became remarkably interested in the dental field. Every time I visited the dentist I continued to ask questions as he encouraged me to pursue this career and told me to reach out if I had any questions. I recall being so grateful that someone with such a busy schedule would take the time to talk to me about the importance of this profession. I imagined myself in his shoes helping patients not only have immaculate oral health, but also possibly helping a high school student pursue their passion. My parents have always pushed me to put others before myself, therefore I have always been interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. My dentist had confirmed that working in the dental field would allow me to help others in multiple ways.

After talking to my family members, I was encouraged to shadow dentists to observe if this was the right career for me before I went to college. In December of 2015, I shadowed Dr. Melissa Gibson at her pediatric dental office in Winchester, Virginia. After shadowing Dr. Gibson, I decided I was overly excited to pursue a career in this field.

In August of 2016, I started my freshman year of college as a Biology major. I have always enjoyed Biology, but nothing prepared me for my first bad grade on a Biology exam. I felt defeated. I continued to push myself, but constantly felt as though my grades would never be outstanding enough to provide me admissions to dental school.

In the summer of 2017, I interned at Dr. Gibson’s office and gained more confidence in how I perform physically and mentally in the office. I knew I would get discouraged when I went back to school in August, but attempted to remember how well I did in office and how much I enjoyed the hands on experience I gained. Through this internship, I learned much about children’s teeth as well as adult teeth. I also became confident in my abilities and believe I am an amazing hands on learner. I also believe I am extremely motivated to learn more about the dental field by building on what I have already learned. Through these experiences, I have realized how much I aspire to become a dentist. I have become more comfortable in my faults and have pushed myself to rejoice in my strengths. I feel dentistry is a career I can excel in by helping patients understand the importance of their dental health and continuing research on best practices for patients.

Through admission to dental school, I will become trained enough to educate patients of all ages about their dental health and what they can do to better it. Receiving admission will assist me in helping others. I am tremendously passionate to make a difference in the lives of people close to home or even across the country and am willing to go where this career will take me. If granted admission, I will work hard to push myself mentally and physically. I am motivated to work hard to follow my dreams and help others in any way I can.