

Helen Tosch
Client Medical Certificate Program Application Essay

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a doctor. Helping those less fortunate than I and working in places where doctors are scarce or simply aren't available has been my dream for many years. My parents, as most I'm sure, have taught me through words and example to always do my best and to treat others with respect and dignity along the way. Looking back, I realize that their advice has truly become a part of who I am. I have an innate drive to succeed and the desire to make a positive impact in the lives of the people I encounter. After much soul searching, I have realized that my childhood dream of becoming a doctor doesn't have to remain a dream—that I can, and will, graduate from medical school and go on to enrich the lives of my patients along the way. I believe that completing the Pre-Health Certificate at Northwestern would be an excellent springboard for my medical career, and I believe I would be an excellent candidate for your program.

You might be asking, why has it taken so long for Dave to decide to go to pursue this dream. The honest answer is fear. Since second grade, I have had a fear of math, or what I have referred to as "the dreaded subject." During math lessons, I lived in terror that the teacher would call me up to the chalkboard to calculate some impossible problem in front of the entire class. Until just recently, I have clung to that fear and avoided math classes. When I realized that a ridiculous fear had become a hindrance to accomplishing my goals, I decided to do something about it. In the autumn of 2001, I completed a Calculus course and in turn conquered my fear of math. I realized, much to my surprise, that a subject I once considered difficult and unappealing was interesting and enjoyable. MATH is no longer a four-letter word, but a word I can say with confidence. Now that I have overcome my fear and have realized that I not only can do it, but also enjoy the challenge, I know that medical school is possible. I now know that becoming a doctor is, in fact, something I can do. I am ready to begin the journey that will eventually add an "M.D." to the end of my name, and I would welcome the opportunity to embark upon my journey at Northwestern.

For more than a decade, I have worked with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). I began this career at a grass roots organization, and have worked my way through the ranks with a couple companies and government agencies. I am proud of all I have accomplished, but I have always felt that a piece was missing—that I should be doing something more meaningful with my life. I believe this is the perfect time to take the next step in realizing my goal of becoming a doctor. While working a full-time job, I have been pursuing my dream via alternate routes. I have made time to take Biology classes and to volunteer at Lutheran General Hospital's Emergency Room. These experiences have only reinforced my aspirations. Studying Biology has renewed my passion for science, and working with patients in the Emergency Room has fueled my desire to help and heal others. I take great pleasure in working with patients and learning about the daily life in a hospital. I am looking forward to continuing my quest to become a doctor, and I believe Northwestern is the perfect place to begin.

I have researched many programs, and after careful consideration, I am confident that Northwestern's program is exactly what I need to complete the next step in the process of becoming a doctor. I know I have what it takes to excel in the field of medicine; and I believe that the combination of class work, lab work, extracurricular opportunities, and application assistance your program offers will help me along the way. I'm sure you have many candidates worthy of admittance into the program and that my competition is stiff. Why then, should you consider me? I, like many of your applicants, have an innate drive to help others. Helping people is, in my opinion, one of the most important things a person can do; and it is something I have always done and done well. I also love the science of medicine, and I have spent much of my free time pursuing coursework and volunteer experiences that enrich my knowledge of and passion for the medical field. Personally, I embody the vigor and drive of a twenty-something and the maturity of a thirty-something. I know what I want and I am not

afraid of working hard and dedicating myself to accomplishing my goals. I would like a challenge worthy of what I am capable; and I would like to attend Northwestern's School of Continuing Studies to seek that challenge. I can't promise that I'll graduate first in my class, but I can say with confidence, that I will do whatever it takes to succeed. With my fear behind me, I am ready to take on the wonderful and exciting world of medicine. I hope you agree that I would make an excellent addition to your team of students and will offer me a seat in your program. I promise you won't regret your decision.