

For applicants to Columbia College, please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the field or fields of study that you noted in the Member Questions section. If you are currently undecided, please write about any field or fields in which you may have an interest at this time.

Essay word count: 300

My indicated major is biology with the intention of attending medical school, eventually earning an M.D. and becoming a physician. I also plan to minor in sociology or political science. I believe the two work in conjunction because the job of a physician is intrinsically intertwined with politics and society. I intend to use my role and authority as a doctor to push for reform, such as free and universal healthcare.

This ideology and passion of mine is largely rooted in my childhood experiences with health and sickness. My grandmother, who raised me after my mother died, has been sick for as long as I can remember. She is over seventy years old now and is reliant on social programs to live. She has countless daily medications for the different conditions she suffers from, including diabetes, arthritis, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. Without the presence of Medicare, since she is elderly and unemployed, it would be nearly impossible for her to have access to a primary healthcare provider or medicine.

My mother, who suffered from severe depression, did have healthcare, but did not have an adequate provider due to expenses. When she brought up her suicidal thoughts and mood swings, the doctor told her most of it was in her head. For this reason, I believe it is critical for physicians to be socially conscious. Had she been provided with the resources and help she needed from a doctor, she could have sought treatment and her suicide could have been prevented. Instead, the stigma of mental illness prevailed even within the healthcare system, among those who should have been trained better. Though the American healthcare system is functional, it is still broken and undeniably riddled with inequity. I intend to use my power and knowledge to enact change.

There is a breadth of intellectual opportunities here at Rice. Further explain your intended major and other areas of academic focus you may explore. Word Limit: 150 words

My intended major is biology — with the desire to eventually earn an M.D. — and a minor in sociology or political science. These fields work in conjunction because the job of a physician is intrinsically intertwined with society and politics. I intend to use my role and authority as a doctor to push for reform, such as free and universal healthcare. This ideology and passion is rooted in my experiences with health and sickness. My mother committed suicide after her physician took too lightly her symptoms of depression and instead told her to seek God. The stigma of mental illness prevailed even within our own healthcare system, failing her and many others. Meanwhile, I've witnessed my grandmother's quality of life deteriorate due to poor healthcare access. For this reason, I believe it critical for physicians to be socially conscious. I intend to use my education to enact change.