

When I envision my future office, I picture, among the papers and prescriptions, bookshelves crammed with Grey's Anatomy, the Physician's Desk Reference, the latest issues of JAMA and The New England Journal of Medicine. But alongside these medical books, I also foresee a pamphlet of upcoming community service events and my old AP Biology book because my bookshelf will reflect not only my medical career, but also my history that led me to my love of biology and the healing arts.

From a young age, I devoured any reading material that I could get my hand on. I never fell in love with a particular genre, so I instead surrounded myself with a diverse mix of books, ranging from storybooks to my mother's child development books. This ability to read nearly anything fostered my open-mindedness when I entered high school and began to pick my own courses. While I found myself interested in many of the classes that my high school offered, the first time that I found myself truly riveted by a subject was when I began to take AP Biology because I discovered that I was able to learn physically and conceptually why the world exists as it does as each new fact and topic I learned in class revealed to me a secret about the world.

The skills that I have developed and the lessons that I have learned from various aspects of my life all pointed me toward biology. The problem solving needed for Calculus presents itself in the logic that is needed to understand a pedigree chart. The memorization of words in a foreign language is practically indistinguishable from the memorization of different symptoms and diseases, and a musician's ability to make sense of the notes on a page relates to a doctor's ability to diagnose an ailment based on a few x-rays.

So while the realization was inevitable that majoring in biology simply makes sense based on the skills that I already developed and the genuine fascination that I have with the material, my decision to commit to biology was sealed by my desire to become a pediatrician. I

have always been immersed in an eclectic mix of child-based community service projects that inspired me to want to help children, varying from collecting shoes to be sent children in Ecuador to being a Church School teacher in the nursery. Through volunteering, I have seen how helpful my leadership skills and intellect can be—but I want to be more than just a pair of hands. By becoming a doctor, I will be able to directly help people in one of the most important and rudimentary of ways.

A doctor must be more than just fascinated with biology—she instead must also be able to take that interest and combine it with an earnest desire to help others in order to be successful. Although Cornell does not have a pre-med major, the excellent academic and humanitarian reputation that Cornell biology majors hold is remarkable, and I can think of no greater adornment for my future bookshelf than a degree from Cornell University.

Supplement Essay for Cornell University, explaining the reasoning for picking your intended major.

Accepted at Cornell University