

Personal Characteristics Essay

UT Dallas's student body, according to U.S. News & World Report, is 11th nationwide and second in the state in terms of campus ethnic diversity. In order to assist this, the university has created an active Multicultural Center where I was employed my sophomore year. Tasked with being a Multicultural Peer Advocate, I designed and implemented events tailored for multiracial, European, and Native American students, and was counsel to the advisory committee for Black, Hispanic, and Asian students as well. While employed, I developed a strong understanding and respect of cultural norms for a diverse set of backgrounds. This shaped me to exemplify and reflect cultural competency to my surrounding peers. In this same year I was actively volunteering at health institutions such as Baylor Scott & White (Plano) and Agape Dermatology Clinic. Even with these additional obligations, I still managed to maintain a term GPA of 3.856 (Fall) and 3.906 (Spring), receiving an A in my Organic Chemistry and Biology courses. My ambition, though, is not limited to my own success; throughout my academic and professional career, I have found that I perform better while helping my peers learn. This is noted by my active involvement in the UTD Student Success Center where I would come only to assist other students in Organic Chemistry. My pursuit of satisfaction extends past instruction in the academic arena: one of my most meaningful experiences was when I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in building homes for disadvantaged families. Their sincere gratitude solidified for me that my life's purpose would be within service in whichever form that took. It wasn't until my experience shadowing and later volunteering at the Agape Dermatology Non-profit Clinic (which serves the disadvantaged community of Dallas) that I realized in what form I wanted to be useful to people. It wasn't until this past summer of 2018, while for the first time taking patient history and recording vitals at the clinic, as simple as they may be, that serving through medicine became an incontrovertible part of my life plan. Further, the medical student I assisted had me work with him in diagnosing and prescribing for patients: even presenting cases to attending Dermatologists: bolstering my drive for medical school. The experience of having the utility to help resolve someone's discomfort or pain, while they are there counting on you, is unlike any other and I believe there is no greater satisfaction.