

It is often impossible to predict how someone will react in a crisis situation. Many people spend years training to handle emergencies, yet fold under pressure when the actual occasion arises. I have proven that I am exactly the opposite. For the past five years I have volunteered as a paramedic and fireman. Whether protecting property from fire or administering CPR, I have often taken control when others were overwhelmed or fearful. On one occasion, I was credited with saving the life of a gunshot victim after taking quick action in calling for rapid transport and controlling his bleeding.

Knowing my capacity to make a difference, I feel an obligation to make the most of my skills. I see a career in anesthesiology as a way for me to do just that. While observing the work of anesthesiologists during my surgery rotation, I saw how crucial it was for them to remain calm and avoid panic during a crisis. Thus, I know that my background as a paramedic will serve me well during my residency and throughout my career.

I also have the ability to put others at ease. While interacting with patients pre-op, I noticed how apprehensive and scared they sometimes were. It was the anesthesiologist who eliminated that fear. My goal as an anesthesiologist is to give comfort to my patients and make them look forward to seeing the doctor.

Finally, I am drawn to anesthesiology because I enjoy the intricacies of physiology and pharmacology. In addition, I have strong skills in technical procedures, which will benefit me in my anesthesiology training. Prior to medical school, I spent three years working as a pharmacy technician with a focus on IV admixture and medication exposure. Further, my work as a paramedic has made me familiar with intubating and IV starts.

My goal for my residency is to achieve proficiency in many different anesthesia techniques, including general anesthesia, regional and local anesthesia, and especially cardiothoracic and obstetrics anesthesia. I want to be comfortable utilizing various narcotic infusions, airway adjuncts, and intubating techniques for difficult airways. Additionally, I want to spend a good deal of time in the ICU managing very sick patients. I feel that if I can become proficient in managing the sickest of patients, then I will be prepared to handle any situation I may encounter.

After my residency, I plan to pursue fellowships in either obstetrics anesthesia, critical care, or cardiac anesthesia. Eventually, after completing my fellowship training and my military commitment, I plan to enter private practice, utilizing the skills I will have perfected during my fellowship.

With everything I have undertaken, I have been completely dedicated to achieving excellence. I work hard to learn everything I can about a particular subject, practice my skills, and seek feedback from others on how to improve. Therefore, I can be counted on to take advantage of every opportunity to learn and develop during my residency.

As I have proven through my work as a paramedic and fireman, I never back down from challenges. Now I am looking forward to not only meeting this next challenge in my career, but exceeding expectations.