Growing up, medicine was always around me. One of my sisters is a physician, and the other is a nurse practitioner, so I was introduced to healthcare early on. Their experiences sparked my curiosity, but I wanted to explore medicine for myself. I started watching orthopedic surgeries, especially hip replacements, and became interested not just in the procedures but in the recovery afterward. Seeing how surgery could help someone regain their mobility and independence made me realize how much of a difference medicine could make in someone's life.

As I explored different healthcare careers, I found myself drawn to becoming a Physician Assistant. The flexibility to work in different specialties first caught my attention, but the patient interaction is what really made the profession stand out to me. I've always been a people person. I enjoy talking to others, hearing their stories, and understanding their experiences. I also love learning about the human body and how medicine works, so being a PA felt like a way to combine both interests.

While shadowing PAs, two patients stood out to me. One was experiencing severe pain, describing it as someone stabbing her with a knife and pulling downward. I watched the PA help manage her pain through medication and assistance with fluid removal. Another patient became angry and started yelling at the PA, but she remained calm and continued trying to help. Both situations showed me that being a good provider takes more than medical knowledge. It takes patience, understanding, and the ability to stay focused on helping someone even when things get difficult.

One experience that affected me the most happened while I was working in a clinic. I met a young man with a life threatening condition who couldn't afford the medication and testing he needed without risking his family's home. I remember feeling angry and helpless because the care he needed existed, but he couldn't afford it. What bothered me even more was how his situation seemed to be treated like just another problem in a busy clinic. That experience made me realize how important it is to look beyond someone's diagnosis and understand what they're going through outside the clinic.

I know I won't be able to fix every problem a patient faces, but I want to be someone who listens, cares, and tries to find ways to help. Becoming a PA would allow me to continue learning about medicine while building real connections with patients. More than anything, I want patients to feel like they're being treated as people, not just another name on a chart.