

### **Personal Statement**

My life has been a series of stumbling and tripping over my own feet, scolding myself for going too fast. Metaphorically and literally, from learning languages at eight years old to earning my associate degree in social sciences at age eighteen, I have always strived for efficiency. In fact, although in my first year of university, I am already advised to look into my future career, since I am a junior by credits. Through trial and error, I have been graced with a position ahead of others, to continue my dreams and goals in life.

Beginning with my education, I was always praised for being steps ahead of those around me, whether it be my classmates or even my mother. Arriving to middle school as the only student from my elementary school to be accepted into the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program may have gotten to my head, but it was quickly diminished by the sheer amount of work I had to put in. Receiving the honor to attend the dual enrollment program at a high school in my county fueled my goals to go to veterinary school.

Thanks to the required 60-hour internship, I completed over 150 hours of interning/shadowing at a veterinary center for two summers, while also working a part-time job throughout the year. Swimming has always been my sport, so my first jobs were lifeguarding and later instructing swim lessons. After I graduated high school, I was so greatly offered the position as a veterinary assistant to work over the summer before university begun.

After hours of computer corporate training on my first day, I was thrilled to see a c-section on the schedule. An American Staffordshire Terrier came in for her scheduled c-section, in which she had 8 puppies! Holding a minute-old puppy in my gloved hands, wrapped in a towel while I brought it to life, was such an exhilarating feeling. To realize that I single-handedly had aided an animal from womb to Earth-living reassured me of my eternal love for animals.

My goal after graduating with my Spanish and Biology degrees is to pursue my veterinary sciences education and obtain my doctorate, as well as a specialization in theriogenology, an interest that has had my heart for years while I observed the fertility specialists at the clinic think aloud and administer ground-breaking medical procedures for a wide-eyed high schooler to witness. Everything I have been so privileged to see, hear, and experience has solidified my passion for veterinary medicine, and I am so excited to continue my journey.

Although I have gotten places further and faster than the peers my age, I have never once allowed it to lower the credibility or quality of the hard work inputted. As I have witnessed, experienced, and learned so many life lessons, there has never been a time where I questioned my educational and occupational goals. The life of veterinary medicine is for me, fitted like a custom-made glove with my name embroidered on it. I am eager to put that glove on and treat the patients that need my help, with the many years of education I have to support me.