

Elizabeth Kappler

Good Samaritan Health Center Medical Assistant Internship

Personal Statement

At an age when most children learn to crawl, I learned to fly. As the child of international aid workers, my parents' work took our family to countries across Asia and Africa over the next 18 years of my life. It was during this time that I became intimately aware of healthcare discrepancies around the world when my younger brother suffered a life-threatening injury, and I observed the toll that a lack of access to quality healthcare had on my family, friends, and neighbors abroad. Since coming to college, I've been privy to another form of healthcare disparity, one that hits much closer to home. When the Chief Operating Officer for the Good Samaritan Health Clinic came to my university and spoke about the life expectancy age gap between residents of my zip code compared to those of more affluent neighborhoods, I realized that the problem solution must begin in our own backyards.

I have always been fascinated with how technology can intersect the human experience. This combined with my passion to bring quality healthcare to underserved populations led me to study biomedical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. I will be graduating in August and plan to work for 2 years before attending medical school. The medical assistant internship at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic offered a unique chance to obtain the clinical exposure that I was missing.

Being a part of this program has been so rewarding. I've been engaged in a field I love and working to help bring quality healthcare to a low-resource community even now as a college student. I've learned practical skills that can be applied throughout my medical career and experienced first-hand the ins and outs of a primary care office. I had known about this internship since my freshman year of college and even applied over a year ago, but as a working student, I never had the time to allocate to this volunteer position in between my classes and part-time jobs. Receiving the JJCF grant relieved some of the financial pressure and gave me the freedom to dedicate time to what I am truly passionate about. Thank you all, for your investment into my life, and for your commitment to supporting community

service and non-profit organizations. I was truly surprised and honored to receive this support and am grateful for the impact it has had on me and my future.

As I mentioned before, I will be graduating in August and am actively searching for a full-time position that will leverage both my engineering skills and my passion for medicine. I have three classes left of my academic program and will spend the remainder of my time this summer studying for the MCAT, the Medical College Admission Test. I plan to return to Good Sam in a volunteer capacity during my free moments. Thank you again, for helping make this internship possible.