

Melika, Habibi

11th grade

Capital High School

Idaho

What Drives You

Since I was little, I've always had huge dreams for my future. Seeing myself achieve my goals is what drives me. Everything I do is focused on building a better future. For as long as I can remember I have wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. Today, I know that pediatrics is my calling. My love for pediatrics started when I was a little kid, wanting to be a doctor. I have always had a love for helping out kids. I am committed to working hard to reach my goals and I will utilize any available resource to help me succeed.

I have been reaching for my goals by taking a Certified Nursing Assistant course at my school district's technical education center. Once I got to high school, I took Fundamentals of Health Professions so I could be eligible to get into the CNA class in my Junior year. Now in this class, I have been able to learn so much about myself. Not only have I gained lab skills, I have also been able to work one-on-one with patients in different facilities and help with their care. This has provided me with a new outlook on life and has allowed me to know what I need to do to pursue a career in pediatrics.

My aspirations have driven me to step out of my comfort zone and to aim high. While there are many paths to success, I prioritize my education and make sure I utilize all of my resources. I have taken summer school classes to get ahead, allowing me to take college and AP classes. I have been going to clinicals which are giving me hands-on experience. To further that point, I am also applying for the ACS Chemistry for Life SEED research program in cancer research to allow me to gain the experience I need to set me up successfully for my professional education and career.

Currently, I have two potential paths for continuing my education after high school. My first plan is to go to Boise State University and complete my undergraduate degree and *then* go on to graduate school- which I have been aiming for at the University of Washington. My second plan is to go to Harvard Medical School which is my dream school where I can complete my whole doctoral path and be able to have an easier track toward pediatrics. There is so much I could accomplish if I was accepted.

No matter where I go, however, I know the journey will be difficult no matter which avenue I take. My path to pediatrics is just starting but knowing that being able to help and aid children throughout their childhood will make the difficulties all worth it.