

Scholarship Essay

1 a). I expect to reap immense benefits by studying a Masters Degree in Public Health. One of the areas in which I intend to benefit is my nursing practice. A master's program will increase my knowledge in the nursing practice and thus enhance my ability to diagnose the root of a patient's problem, including being able to make the connection between a patient and other social factors. For instance, I read a medical journal where a public health student gives an account of how he spent several days of his internship watching a homeless diabetes patient in a coma being treated with a view of optimizing his insulin regiment. The health workers in charge were mainly concerned with his medication. However, as far as the author of the journal is concerned, the patient's coma had little to do with medication issues. Rather, it resulted from social factors. With a long history of IV drug abuse, anxiety and depression, the patient lived in the streets while continually taking his insulin. He was definitely aware of the importance of taking his insulin and controlling his condition, but homelessness prevented him. Reading the story made me realize that I needed more knowledge in public health especially in relation to social determinants of health so as to be able to build such a connection. I can then be able to provide advice in situations such as the one described above for the patient to be provided with housing and hence be able to observe proper storage of insulin.

b). Studying a Masters in Public health will be a key stepping stone to doing my doctorate, hence facilitating my progress towards a leadership position where I can be able to influence things in a wider scope. I have always been passionate about leadership and taking responsibilities, and I believe, a master's degree is indispensable towards achieving this objective. Pursuing a master's degree will equip me with the level of competence needed to address issues such as physicians' tendency to treat mental health with less care than they do on

physical health. Being in a leadership position would allow me to look into issues relating to improper practice by physicians, for example, sweeping the issue of drug abuse under the carpet and discharging patients without much concern about the root cause of his/her health issues. A Masters in Public Health will also be beneficial to my long-term goal, which is learning to draw evidence-based concepts from the course and applying them to primary care fields such as cancer screening, immunization schedules, and physical exams. Moreover, the program will come in handy in future in my efforts to understand the legal issues surrounding the medical field. For example, it will help me to understand the amount of information I am legally allowed to divulge when on phone with a patient's relative. All the above will be very vital in my long term quest for leadership in health care.

c). A Masters Degree in Public Health will also be beneficial to the people I care for within my area of practice. Health social determinants also come in here as I will choose a different approach from other health workers who are mainly concerned with treating different health issue. Further studies on the social determinants of health in my masters will enable me to have a clear understanding of the social issues affecting human health and how to control them. With this knowledge, I will benefit my clients by helping them to avert further health issues. Many health workers ignore the fact that income, zip code, race, and ethnicity can sometimes be used to predict the health status of a person just as one's diet or family medical history. Pursuing a master's degree will help me to advice not only patients but also other health workers on social factors that may be the cause of certain health issues. Moreover, gaining more knowledge on environmental health issues will put me in a better position to advice my community on how to maintain a healthy environment. In so doing, health issues that result from environmental factors such as malaria can be prevented.

2. I am a very committed servant and professional in the health care field. I reflect about my area of practice even when I am off-duty, a practice that has allowed me to discover the public health gaps that exist between inpatient and outpatient health care. As an avid reader of public health literature, I have gained important insights as to why similar diseases may present different challenges to different patients. This is also a clear indication of my commitment to the health care practice. In addition, the fact that I choose to advance my education to a master's level as well as my future goals of being a leader in the public health sector demonstrates my commitment to this practice. I have also attended many internship sessions and taken part in a number of volunteer programs, which serve as further proof of my dedication to the health care practice. Moreover, I have acquired the professional practicing license which is a clear indication that I have a passion to continue practicing health care for a long time in future.

Taking all this into account, it is my humble appeal that I be granted a scholarship to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Health in your prestigious institution.