

Please note

Tutors may not be experts on the particular topic of your paper.

Tutors do not offer opinions about what grade your assignment will or should have received.

Tutors do not copyedit entire papers, though sections may be used to model the changes you should make.

Tutors only know as much about the assignment as you share with them. Please provide a thorough and specific description with your form.



Dear Taylor,

Congratulations on your progress in writing this assignment for graduate school**.**

Your personal statement is very well-organized and you did a very good job at articulating the importance of this field to you. Your sentences are very well-written and use effective language to give the reader a complete understanding of your perspective.

My name is Jeremy, and it’s my pleasure to work with you today.

You are welcome to make use of the Writing Center’s services at any stage of your writing process, whether you are having trouble understanding an assignment, want feedback on a rough draft, or need help polishing a final version of your paper. Our trained peer tutors can help you improve as a writer by explaining and modeling effective writing skills. For more information about our services, please see the [Writing Center website](http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/writingcenter).

Resources to help you revise your writing assignment are provided via links throughout this letter and in the [Useful Links](http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/writingcenter/resources/links) section at the end**.** Before reading my advice, please review the writing assignment you submitted. Occasionally, I will use examples of your own writing to illustrate one of my suggestions. In these instances, your writing will be highlighted in red and my comment will be highlighted in purple.

**Thesis and Organization**

Let’s first take a look at what seems to be your thesis:

An opportunity to be a part of this program would not just be an opportunity for me to dive into academia; this program would allow me to better serve my community through biomedical research and healthcare.

You do a very effective job of laying out what you will discuss in the thesis, which gives the reader an idea of what to expect for the rest of the paper.

You transition smoothly between the paragraphs as well as between ideas in the paragraphs.

**Development and Research**

**Thesis and Organization**

In your second paragraph, you do a great job in connecting your background to your journey to this field of study as well as in being specific in what you are interested in. This paragraph is structured very well.

For your second paragraph, you are effective in explaining why you want to pursue this program. However, I would consider elaborating more on what you wish to gain from the program. In this paragraph, you say:

Through the various courses, research, and shadowing experience offered by your Biomedical Sciences Master's Program I would acquire valuable skills necessary to be a better healthcare practitioner.

Try to expand more on what you would gain beyond just “skills.” What will the *experience* offer you outside of necessary skills?

**Formatting and Citations**

**N/A**

**Grammar and Mechanics**

Grammatically, your paper is very effective. Your thoughts throughout the paper are consistently coherent and your writing never interferes with the reader’s understanding of what you are trying to say.

One thing that I would consider working on is in the second paragraph, where you use the phrase “marginalized communities” a few times in the span of a few sentences. To add more variation, consider rewording to add more variation in your sentences.

**Summary**

In this personal statement, you do an excellent job of providing the reader with a deeply personal connection to the career you would like to pursue using effective word choice and neat organization. For your next steps, first look back at your third paragraph to see if you can elaborate more on what you wish to get out of the program. Also, take a look at how you utilize the phrase “marginalized communities” and avoid being too repetitive. This is a great piece of writing, and I wish you luck on your revision and application!

**More Resources**

<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/07repwrd.htm>

I find this to be an interesting and helpful article on repetition in writing and how and why to fix it.

Sincerely,

Jeremy G.

Peer Tutor

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