Anjali Deshpande - Application packet (AMCAS 2026 and BU Chobanian & Avedisian secondary)

Lowell, Massachusetts · anjali.deshpande.test@example.com

Applying to: Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine MD program, 2026-27

Fictional applicant written for this sample. The person, her employers and her organisations are invented.

Academics

- **University of Massachusetts Lowell**, BS Biology, minor in Psychology, May 2022. GPA 3.52 (science 3.44). I chose UMass Lowell because it was a 12-minute bus ride from home, my in-state tuition was covered by a merit award, and I could keep working weekends at my parents' restaurant.
- **Weak semester:** spring 2020. GPA 2.61, with a C in Organic Chemistry II and a C- in Physics I. My parents' restaurant, Deshpande Kitchen, closed that March. I worked 30 hours a week at a grocery store and did my classes on a phone in the stockroom. I retook Physics I online in summer 2021 and earned an A-. I had a 3.81 in my last three semesters.
- **MCAT:** March 2026, 509 (CPBS 128, CARS 125, BBFL 129, PSBB 127). I am not planning a retake. CARS is my weak section, and I have been reading one long-form article a day and writing a summary of it since April.
- **Languages:** English (native), Marathi (conversational), basic Khmer greetings learned at work.

Work and activities

1. **Clinical research coordinator, Hepatitis C Community Cure Study**, Riverside Community Health Partners, Lowell (Aug 2024 - present, about 3,300 hours). *Most meaningful.* The study treats hepatitis C in people who use drugs, with treatment given at the health center's harm-reduction site instead of a specialty clinic. I consent participants, track lab draws, and chase down people who miss their 12-week cure test. That last part is about 40% of my job. We have enrolled 118 participants, and 71 have documented cure. I co-wrote a poster for a regional addiction medicine meeting (2025) on why people miss follow-up. The main finding was phone loss: 38% changed numbers during treatment.
2. **Emergency department scribe**, Merrimack Regional Hospital, Lowell (Jun 2022 - Jul 2024, about 2,900 hours). *Most meaningful.* Night and weekend shifts with 14 attending physicians. Trained 9 new scribes in 2023.
3. **Volunteer tutor, then Thursday coordinator**, Pailin Street Homework Club, Lowell (Sep 2019 - present, about 520 hours). *Most meaningful.* After-school help for mostly Cambodian American middle schoolers. As coordinator since 2023 I schedule 11 volunteers and order the snacks, which matter more than the schedule.

4. **Physician shadowing** (2021 - 2025, 64 hours): family medicine (30), orthopedic surgery (20), infectious disease (14).
5. **Cashier and stock clerk**, Market Basket, Lowell (Mar 2020 - May 2022, about 1,800 hours).
6. **Family restaurant**, Deshpande Kitchen, Lowell (2014 - 2020). Weekends: prep, register, and calling in the vegetable order in my father's place when he couldn't get to it.
7. **Undergraduate research assistant**, UMass Lowell biology department (Jan - Dec 2021, 260 hours). Zebrafish fin regeneration. Mostly I fed fish and imaged fins. My one independent experiment failed twice because I mislabeled tanks, and I learned to use a written log.
8. **Hobbies:** recreational volleyball (Tuesday league, setter, team record 3-14 last season), making Maharashtrian lime pickle in batches too large for one family, and walking the Merrimack riverwalk.

Honors

- UMass Lowell Dean's List, 4 semesters
- Riverside Community Health Partners Staff Recognition Award, 2025

AMCAS personal statement

At 3 a.m. in the Merrimack Regional emergency department, I typed "patient left without being seen" next to the name of a man I had watched wait five hours. He had hepatitis C, an abscess on his forearm, and a cough. He told the triage nurse he would come back. He didn't. I thought about him longer than I should have for someone I never spoke to.

I took the scribe job after college because I needed a paycheck and wanted to know if I could handle a hospital at night. I could. I liked the speed and I liked the doctors who explained things to me between patients. But what I learned most was what the chart doesn't record: who came alone, who left angry, who was back for the third time that month. One attending, Dr. Okafor, read old notes aloud before walking into a room so she would know what had already been tried. I started doing the same with my templates.

Two years later I applied for a research coordinator job treating hepatitis C at a harm-reduction site. In my first month a participant named Dara missed three appointments. I wrote her down as lost. My supervisor asked where she slept. I didn't know. We found her through the needle exchange van, and she finished treatment. That changed how I work. Now when someone disappears I ask who else sees them, not whether they care.

Not all of it goes well. Eleven participants have been reinfected. Some people I liked very much have died of overdose during the study. I have had to learn to keep going after those weeks without pretending they didn't happen.

My own path was uneven. When my parents' restaurant closed in 2020, I worked full time and my grades fell, and I did not ask any professor for help. I fixed that later. I retook physics, and I learned to say early when I am drowning. I want to be a physician because I want to be the person who can treat the abscess and the infection and still think about the bus route home. I expect primary care or infectious disease, in a city like Lowell, but I am open.

BU Chobanian & Avedisian secondary

Why are you interested in Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine?

Most of my patients have been treated at some point at a safety-net hospital in Boston, and their discharge papers taught me the language of BU-trained clinicians: addiction consults, low-barrier buprenorphine, follow-up that doesn't assume a working phone. I want to train in a place where caring for people who use drugs is ordinary work. I would join the student-run free clinics and look for research in addiction medicine or infectious disease. I am also honest that I want to stay in Massachusetts, near my parents, who are now 64 and 67.

Describe a challenge or setback and what you learned.

My spring 2020 transcript is the weakest part of my application. I took 15 credits while working 30 hours at Market Basket, and I let Organic Chemistry II slide because I was embarrassed to email the professor. The C was earned. What I learned was practical. I now tell supervisors early when I'm behind. I did this in 2025 when study enrollment outpaced my follow-up capacity, and we added a part-time outreach worker.

Describe an ethical situation you have faced.

As a scribe I noticed that a note template copied forward a "no known drug allergies" entry for a patient who had told the resident that morning about a penicillin reaction. I was 23 and not supposed to edit clinical content. I flagged it to the attending privately, and she corrected it and thanked me. Afterward I wondered how many times I hadn't noticed. I started reading allergy lines on every chart.

How will you contribute to the diversity of our class?

I am the daughter of Marathi-speaking restaurant owners, a commuter-school graduate, and someone who has spent seven years of Thursdays with Cambodian American kids in Lowell. They taught me that I was the outsider in their neighborhood, not the other way around.