Fatima Hossain - Application packet (AMCAS 2026 and SUNY Downstate College of Medicine secondary)

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Applying to: SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University College of Medicine MD program, 2026-27

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

Academics

- Brooklyn College (CUNY) - BS Biology, minor in Psychology, May 2022. GPA 3.58 (science 3.49).
- Withdrew from Organic Chemistry II, spring 2020 (W). Retook it fall 2020: B+.
- MCAT: August 2024, 501 (CPBS 125, CARS 126, BBFL 125, PSBB 125); April 2026, 511 (CPBS 127, CARS 127, BBFL 128, PSBB 129).
- Languages: English, Bangla (fluent spoken; reads and writes at a basic level), conversational Hindi/Urdu from TV and customers.

AMCAS personal comments essay

The word my grandmother used for her dialysis machine was "the washer." For two years, from 2021 to 2023, I took her three mornings a week to a dialysis unit on Flatbush Avenue, and for most of the first year I translated what the nurses said into what I thought she needed to hear. I softened things. When her potassium was high, I told her the nurse said to "be a little careful" with bananas. It took a dietitian, Ms. Rosario, watching me do it, to say quietly that my grandmother deserved the real numbers. After that I translated everything, including the parts that scared both of us. My grandmother started asking her own questions. She died in 2023, but she died knowing what was happening to her.

That was my first lesson that explaining something well is a skill, not a kindness you dole out. My second came at Parkside Urgent Care, where I scribed for two years. I typed roughly 40 notes a shift and watched physicians decide in four minutes whether a cough was a cold or pneumonia. I also made a mistake I still think about: I carried a penicillin allergy forward from a sibling's chart because they shared a last name and a visit time. The physician caught it before a prescription was written. I now read the date of birth back on every chart, and I understand why medicine has so many checklists.

I did not take a straight road here. In spring 2020 my father's taxi income disappeared, I started working 30 hours a week at a pharmacy counter, and I withdrew from Organic Chemistry II rather than fail it. My first MCAT score, 501, came after studying around full-time work with no real plan. I retook it with a schedule I could keep and a 511.

I want to be a physician because the moments I have been most useful were the ones where I understood both the medicine and the person in front of me, even when I only understood a little of the medicine. I want to understand all of it, and I want to practice in the borough that raised me.

Experiences (AMCAS, abbreviated)

1. **Clinical research assistant, diabetes self-management study**, Church Avenue Family Health Center, Flatbush (Aug 2024 - present, about 3,300 hours). *Most meaningful.* Recruit and consent patients (many Haitian Creole and Bangla speakers) for a study of group visits for type 2 diabetes; enter A1c and survey data; co-led 14 group sessions on insulin and foot care. When our team split over whether to drop participants who missed three sessions, I pulled attendance data showing most missed visits clustered around night-shift weeks, and we moved two sessions to Saturday instead.
2. **Medical scribe**, Parkside Urgent Care, Flatbush (Jul 2022 - Jul 2024, about 2,600 hours). *Most meaningful.* Real-time documentation for six physicians and two PAs. Trained four new scribes. Once heard a provider imitate a patient's accent at the nurses' station; I said it wasn't funny, and later told the scribe supervisor. The clinic ran a respect training the next month.
3. **Bangla interpreter and intake volunteer**, Kensington Neighbors Free Clinic (Sep 2021 - present, about 380 hours). *Most meaningful.* Saturday intake, blood pressure checks and interpreting. In 2025 I organized four sidewalk blood pressure screenings on Church Avenue and McDonald Avenue with volunteers from two mosques; 212 adults screened, 37 referred.
4. **Undergraduate research**, neuroendocrinology lab, Brooklyn College (Dr. Miriam Adeyemi-Katz) (Jan 2021 - May 2022, 450 hours). Measured cortisol in zebrafish larvae exposed to light disruption. My first eight weeks of assays failed because I mislabeled plates; I rebuilt the protocol with color-coded racks. Poster at the CUNY undergraduate research conference, 2022.
5. **Pharmacy counter clerk**, family-owned pharmacy, Coney Island Avenue (Mar 2020 - Jun 2022, about 2,400 hours, 20-30 hours/week). Register, insurance calls, translating for older Bangladeshi customers.
6. **Physician shadowing** (2022 - 2025, 86 hours). Nephrology (36, including the dialysis unit), family medicine (30), emergency medicine (20).
7. **Tutor, Saturday homework program**, local mosque (2019 - 2022, 300 hours). Math and SAT reading for middle and high school girls.
8. **Hobbies**: running in Prospect Park (two half-marathons, 2:14 best), cooking my grandmother's recipes from memory and failing at her fish curry, and playing tape-ball cricket with my cousins in the summer.

Honors

- Brooklyn College Dean's List (four semesters).
- Parkside Urgent Care Scribe of the Quarter, Q3 2023.

SUNY Downstate secondary (2026-27)

Why are you interested in attending SUNY Downstate?

I have walked past Downstate my whole life; my grandmother's nephrologist trained there, and two of the physicians I scribed for are graduates. I want a school whose patients are my neighbors. Downstate's location in East Flatbush means I would learn on the same illnesses I have documented and studied: uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension and kidney failure in Caribbean, South Asian and African American families. I'm interested in the student-run free clinic, in the Brooklyn Free Clinic's continuity work, and in research on diabetes in immigrant communities. As a CUNY graduate who worked through college, I value a public school whose students look like the borough.

Downstate serves one of the most diverse communities in the country. Describe how your experiences would help you contribute to the Downstate community and to Brooklyn.

I bring four years of Flatbush clinic work and a language that many Kensington patients need. At the free clinic and in our diabetes study, I have learned that a referral fails when no one explains it, and that working with Haitian, Caribbean and Orthodox Jewish patients means asking about their routines before offering mine. I would like to keep interpreting, help classmates set up community screenings, and connect the free clinic with the mosques that hosted our blood pressure events.

Please explain any gaps or significant changes in your academic record.

In spring 2020 I withdrew from Organic Chemistry II when my family lost most of its income and I took a 30-hour-a-week job. I retook it in fall 2020 and earned a B+. My first MCAT (501) reflected studying without a plan. For the retake I used a 16-week schedule, two hours on weekday mornings before work and six hours on Saturdays, with full-length AAMC practice tests every other Sunday and an error log I reviewed weekly. My score rose to 511.

What will you be doing in the coming year?

Working full-time at the Church Avenue Family Health Center through June 2027, helping write up the diabetes study's first-year results, and continuing Saturdays at the Kensington Neighbors Free Clinic.