Claire Hadley - Application packet (AMCAS 2026 and Georgetown University School of Medicine secondary)

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Applying to: Georgetown University 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 Delaware, BS Biological Sciences, minor in Spanish, May 2024. GPA 3.62 (science 3.51).
- MCAT: April 2026, 511 (CPBS 127, CARS 129, BBFL 128, PSBB 127).
- Lowest grade: C in Organic Chemistry II (spring 2022). B+ in Biochemistry and A- in Cell Physiology the following year.
- Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate, medical vocabulary).

Work and activities (AMCAS, abbreviated)

1. **Clinical research coordinator**, Fort Dupont Community Clinic, Washington, DC (Aug 2024 - present, about 3,300 hours). *Most meaningful.* I coordinate a 140-participant study testing whether pharmacist-led text check-ins lower A1c in adults with type 2 diabetes in Wards 7 and 8. I do consent visits, draw study labs, track retention and call participants who miss visits. Retention at 12 months is 81%.
2. **Medical scribe**, Riverside Express Urgent Care, Newark, Delaware (Jun 2022 - Jun 2024, about 1,500 hours). Scribed for six physicians and PAs, roughly 25 patients per shift. The company replaced its scribes with an ambient AI documentation tool in June 2024; I trained two clinicians on it in my final two weeks.
3. **Hospice volunteer**, Brandywine Valley Hospice, Wilmington, Delaware, and later remote vigil calls (Sep 2022 - present, 260 hours). *Most meaningful.* Companion visits, sitting with patients in their final hours, respite for family caregivers.
4. **Undergraduate researcher**, Dr. Anita Rao's lab, University of Delaware Department of Biological Sciences (Jan 2023 - May 2024, 520 hours). Studied how high glucose affects wound healing in zebrafish fin regeneration. I ran imaging on about 400 fish, and my first six weeks of data were unusable because I measured fins inconsistently. Poster at UD Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2024.
5. **Server**, Trolley Square Tavern, Wilmington (May 2020 - May 2023, about 1,900 hours). Up to 25 hours a week during school to cover rent.
6. **Physician shadowing** (2023 - 2025, 64 hours). Family medicine (30), endocrinology (20), palliative care (14).

7. **Clarinet, Newark Community Wind Ensemble** (2019 - 2024); now pickup soccer on the National Mall on Sundays and refinishing thrift-store furniture.

Most meaningful - hospice: The first patient I sat with alone was a retired welder named Mr. Pruitt. He did not want to talk about dying; he wanted to argue about the Phillies. I learned that being present is sometimes just letting someone be who he was last year.

Honors

- Dean's List, four of eight semesters.
- UD Summer Scholars research award, 2023 ($3,500).
- Fort Dupont Community Clinic Staff Recognition, 2025, for rebuilding the study's missed-visit call system.

AMCAS personal comments essay

The patient I think about most never knew my name. In 2022 I was scribing at an urgent care in Newark, Delaware, typing while a physician assistant saw a woman in her sixties with a foot wound. She had diabetes and said she checked her sugar "when I can." The PA cleaned the wound, prescribed antibiotics and wrote "noncompliant." I typed the word. Two months later her name came across our board again, this time with a transfer to the hospital for a possible amputation. I reread my own note and saw that no one, including me, had asked what "when I can" meant.

I was not supposed to ask. Scribes type. But the question stayed with me, and it is a large part of why I took my current job. At Fort Dupont Community Clinic I coordinate a diabetes study in Ward 7, and now asking is the job. Test strips cost money. The nearest full grocery store is a bus transfer away. One participant, Mr. Ellis, kept missing visits; I assumed he had lost interest until he told me he worked nights and our 9 a.m. slots fell during his only sleep. We moved him to evenings, and he has not missed a visit since. I made the same wrong assumption about him that I watched someone make about the woman with the foot wound. I am trying to catch it sooner.

I did not arrive here efficiently. In college I waited tables up to 25 hours a week, and in spring 2022 I earned a C in Organic Chemistry II because I studied after closing shifts and stopped going to office hours. I was embarrassed, so I told no one. The next year I cut my shifts, scheduled office hours like work and earned a B+ in Biochemistry. The lesson was less about chemistry than about asking for help before I am underwater.

Hospice taught me the other half of medicine. Sitting with dying patients, I have seen families argue about whether to stop a medication, and I have seen a nurse explain, gently and without hurrying, what comfort care means. Medicine is not only fixing things. Sometimes it is helping someone decide what matters when fixing is no longer possible.

I want to be a physician because I want to be the one who asks the follow-up question and then has the training to act on the answer. I expect to work in primary care or endocrinology in a city clinic, caring for patients whose disease is shaped by where they live.

Georgetown secondary (2026-27)

Describe how you have exhibited cura personalis, care of the whole person, in your healthcare experiences.

A study visit at Fort Dupont is supposed to take 30 minutes: vitals, a blood draw, a questionnaire. With Ms. Whitaker, 74, it rarely does. In her third visit she mentioned she had stopped taking her metformin because it upset her stomach and she was embarrassed to bring it up with her doctor. That was outside my protocol, but not outside my responsibility. I told our study physician the same day, with Ms. Whitaker's permission, and helped her write down her questions for her next appointment. I also learned her grandson drives her and works until 4, so I reschedule her for late afternoons. Cura personalis, for me, has meant treating the schedule, the embarrassment and the grandson as part of the visit.

What are your plans between now and matriculation?

I will keep working full time as clinical research coordinator at Fort Dupont Community Clinic through June 2027. The study closes enrollment in December, and I will help our PI prepare the 12-month outcomes analysis. I will continue remote vigil calls for Brandywine Valley Hospice about twice a month and keep taking a Spanish conversation class at a community center in Columbia Heights on Tuesday nights.

Why Georgetown?

I have spent two years in Ward 7 learning that D.C.'s diabetes rates differ by neighborhood more than any lab value I draw can explain. Georgetown's emphasis on care of the whole person describes the work I am already trying to do imperfectly. I want to continue in community-based clinics in D.C. as a student, and I am drawn to Georgetown's Jesuit commitment to serving others, especially the city's underserved neighborhoods. Its attention to ethics and end-of-life care matters to me after four years of hospice work.

Is there anything else you would like the committee to know?

My scribe job ended because an AI tool did it faster. I don't resent that. The notes were cleaner. But in my last two weeks I noticed it recorded what patients said, not what they hesitated over. I want to learn to use these tools while keeping the part they miss.