Rania Khalil - Application packet (AMCAS 2026 and GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences secondary)

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Applying to: The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences, MD program, 2026-27 cycle (entering fall 2027). Campus preference: Main Campus Preferred.

Fictional applicant written for the MyRound GW sample. The person, her employers and her supervisors are invented.

Academics

- The Ohio State University - BS Public Health (Environmental Health), minor in Chemistry, May 2024. GPA 3.79 (science 3.71). Dean's List six semesters.
- MCAT: January 2025, 506 (CPBS 126, CARS 127, BBFL 127, PSBB 126); April 2026, 514 (CPBS 128, CARS 127, BBFL 130, PSBB 129).
- AAMC PREview: taken June 2026.
- Languages: English (native), Arabic (Levantine, fluent spoken; reads slowly).
- Lowest grade: C+ in Physics I (spring 2021, first year). A- in Physics II the next year.

AMCAS personal comments essay

The first inhaler I ever saw used correctly was in a stranger's kitchen. I had been a community health worker for six weeks, carrying a clipboard into apartments in Southeast DC for the health center's asthma home-visit program, and I had already taught a dozen families the technique the training video showed. Then Ms. Daniels, whose nine-year-old grandson had been admitted three times that winter, watched me demonstrate, took the inhaler, and said, "That's not how he does it." She was right. He held the spacer at an angle because the mask didn't fit his face. Nobody had noticed, because nobody had watched him do it at home.

That visit changed how I did my job. I stopped teaching first and started asking each child to show me. Over two years I made 310 home visits. Some of the problems were technique. More were the apartment: mold behind a bathroom wall, a landlord who wouldn't answer, a gas stove used for heat. I learned to write a letter that a housing inspector would act on and to call the same property manager every Monday. Of the 64 children I followed for a full year, 41 had fewer emergency visits than the year before. I can't say how much of that was us. I do know which families I failed: the ones who moved and whose new address I never got, and one father I misjudged as uninterested when he was working two jobs and couldn't take a call before nine at night.

I came to that work from environmental health. At Ohio State I spent two years in a lab that mapped lead service lines against children's blood lead levels in Toledo, my hometown. I cleaned 14,000 address records, learned to distrust a map that looks too clean, and presented a poster on how many

high-risk homes the city's records missed. Research showed me where harm was concentrated. It couldn't tell me what to say to the mother in the kitchen.

Medicine is where I want to do both. As an EMT in Columbus I learned that I stay calm when things are loud, and that I like being the person who has to decide. Shadowing a pulmonologist and a pediatrician, I saw physicians who could read a chest film and also ask who in the house smokes and where they go to do it. I want that combination of precision and attention to how people live. I expect to be humbled by how much I don't know, the way Ms. Daniels humbled me, and I want to train somewhere that treats a patient's neighborhood as part of the history.

Work and activities (AMCAS, abbreviated)

1. **Community health worker, then lead CHW, Pediatric Asthma Home Visit Program**, Ridgecrest Community Health Center, Washington, DC (Jul 2024 - present, about 3,400 hours). *Most meaningful.* Home visits for children after asthma emergency visits: inhaler technique, trigger checks, referrals to housing inspection. Promoted to lead in 2025; I train new CHWs and run the program's follow-up spreadsheet. In spring 2026 I helped the health center collect patient consent and feedback when it piloted an AI tool that drafts visit notes from recorded conversations.
2. **Undergraduate researcher, environmental epidemiology lab** (Dr. Ellen Marsh), The Ohio State University (Aug 2022 - May 2024, 900 hours). *Most meaningful.* Matched lead service line records with blood lead data; poster at the OSU Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, 2024.
3. **EMT-Basic, Northside Volunteer Rescue Squad**, Columbus, Ohio (Jan 2022 - May 2024, 620 hours). *Most meaningful.* Weekend 12-hour shifts; about 180 calls.
4. **Arabic interpreter (volunteer)**, Al-Salam Free Clinic, Columbus (Sep 2021 - May 2024, 210 hours). Interpreted for Syrian and Iraqi refugee families at the Thursday clinic.
5. **Physician shadowing** (2023 - 2025, 72 hours). Pulmonology (32), general pediatrics (28), emergency medicine (12).
6. **Peer tutor, general and organic chemistry**, OSU Dennis Learning Center (Aug 2022 - May 2024, 260 hours).
7. **Family bakery**, Khalil's Bakery, Toledo (2016 - 2021, summers and weekends, ~15 hours/week). Counter, ovens, and the 5 a.m. bread run.
8. **Hobbies**: amateur boxing (training three mornings a week since 2023), baking, and long walks with a camera.

GW secondary (2026-27)

Please provide the Admissions Committee with a brief summary of your activities, academics, employment, or other occupations to account for full-time activity (approx. 30-40 hours/week) from the point of application through matriculation in 2027. (750 characters)

I will keep working full time (40 hours a week) as lead community health worker at Ridgecrest Community Health Center until June 2027: home visits, training two new CHWs this fall, and

finishing the program's two-year outcomes report with our medical director. I volunteer one Saturday a month at a DC food bank's mobile market and keep boxing three mornings a week.

The MD Program includes substantial content in Clinical Public Health… What are your specific interests and experiences related to that aspect of the MD Program? (350 characters)

Two years of asthma home visits taught me that a care plan fails at the apartment door. I want PPS and the Clinical Public Health Summits to give me the policy and systems tools I lacked when a landlord ignored a mold complaint.

What makes you a unique individual? What challenges have you faced? What have you learned from your experiences? (750 characters)

I grew up behind the counter of my family's Lebanese bakery in Toledo, translating for my grandmother at the doctor and for customers at the register. My first MCAT, 506, came three weeks after my father's heart surgery, when I was driving between Toledo and DC every weekend; I didn't postpone it and should have. I retook it a year later with a plan and a 514. I learned to ask for help earlier and that pushing through is not always the responsible choice.

What is your specific interest in the MD Program at GW? What opportunities would you take advantage of as a student here? Why? (1750 characters)

I have spent two years in Wards 7 and 8 watching asthma get decided by housing, and I want to learn medicine in the city where those decisions are made. GW's Clinical Public Health curriculum is the main reason I am applying. I would like the Patients, Populations, and Systems courses to give structure to things I learned the hard way, like how Medicaid pays (or doesn't) for home visits, and the summits to let me work on a DC problem with classmates who will become doctors here.

I would apply to the Health Policy scholarly concentration. My health center's medical director testified to the DC Council last year about mold in public housing, and I helped her pull the numbers; I want to learn to do that well as a physician. I would volunteer at the student-run HEALing Clinic, where my Arabic and CHW experience could help with patient navigation. I am also interested in the Clinical Apprenticeship Program, because I learn best from watching a physician over months, not days.

I chose the main campus because my patients, my work and my community are in DC, and I hope to stay for residency.

Have you previously interacted directly with the MD Admissions Office through events, tours, fairs, webinars, or interviews? (250 characters)

Yes. I attended a virtual information session for prospective applicants in March 2026.

MD/MPH: Not applying.

Letters (via AMCAS Letter Service)

Three individual letters: Dr. Ellen Marsh (research mentor, OSU), Dr. Imani Brooks (medical director, Ridgecrest Community Health Center), and Dr. Carl Weiss (organic chemistry professor, OSU).