

My name is Rebecca, and I am a fourth year student at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. I am currently applying for an internal medicine residency and am really excited to share with you why I chose to go to Downstate and why you should as well.

First and foremost, I always wanted to stay in New York. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and I loved how vibrant and diverse this city is. I was looking forward to harnessing those attributes for my future career in medicine. As SUNY Downstate students, we rotate at Kings County Hospital, known for its amazingly diverse patient population. I knew that this clinical experience would give me a uniquely powerful opportunity to learn and train as a future physician. I also learned about the newly integrated curriculum at Downstate and how our class would be the first ones upon which it would be implemented. The idea of incorporating the clinical aspect of medicine much earlier on in my education greatly appealed to me, and I wanted to be a part of that innovation.

I am so thankful that I did choose Downstate. I can honestly say that I enjoyed my medical school experience tremendously. I believe that the new curriculum, which integrated clinical aspects of medicine early on, was a crucial and valuable change. My classmates and I felt that we were truly getting a more robust and well-rounded introduction into medicine. When my clinical rotations began, I felt confident in my medical knowledge, as well as in my patient communication skills. I think one of Downstate's biggest strengths are the hospitals we rotate through for our clerkships. In addition to the diversity of the patient population, the vast number of unique conditions that one gets exposure to, is incredible. Residents and Attendings also pay great care towards ensuring that medical school students get plenty of time on the hospital floor and are exposed to a rich variety of cases. Ultimately, I have emerged from these rotations feeling confident in my clinical training and skills.

Something I did not contemplate too deeply before entering medical school, but realized quickly during my academic journey, is the immense importance of the general environment of a school. The Downstate family, including its faculty and students, is an extremely warm and welcoming body of individuals. Everyone at Downstate has this amazing sense of camaraderie, where everyone is there to support one another. That sense of support proves to be a powerful resource when navigating the academic rigors and busy schedules that one confronts in medical school. I strongly believe that it is because of this important aspect that I, along with my classmates, have been able to thrive as future physicians.

I really hope that like me, you choose Downstate College of Medicine to start your career in medicine. The education, clinical experiences and overall warmth of the program is unparalleled and will train you to be a top-tier physician.

If you want to ask me any specific questions about the program, please do not hesitate to email me at [medadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:medadmissions@downstate.edu). Good luck!