

Hello applicants! Congratulations on your acceptance to SUNY Downstate! My name is Shari. I am a 4th year student going into pediatrics and I will be graduating this May. When I was in your position four short years ago, I had many different ideas about what I wanted in a medical school, but when I received my acceptance to Downstate, the decision was easy. The curriculum at Downstate combined some traditional features of medical school with more innovative styles of teaching and learning. I felt this would make my experience unique, help me be a more effective learner and frankly just make medical school more fun. As a New York state resident, I was also hoping to be able to stay in state. I graduated from undergrad at Cornell University and spent the two years following graduation working in the NYC area. For me, Downstate was in the best location to spend the next four years of my life, with access to more experiences and opportunities than any other city.

With its strong academic curriculum and clinical experiences, Downstate has provided me with incredible training and preparation to be confident in my abilities as a clinician as I move towards graduation. Throughout my interview season for residency, programs have recognized the Downstate name, with its strong graduates known for being outstanding residents. But beyond the fact that Downstate has prepared me immensely for my career, one word truly describes what I have loved about my experience: community. From the very first day as an incoming student, the second year class was overwhelmingly welcoming and supportive, providing tips and resources for succeeding in the first year. The pass/fail structure of our curriculum only adds to the collegiality amongst classmates and across class years. I could not have imagined a more supportive environment or a more amazing group of people to go through medical school with. My favorite Downstate event, The Student Faculty Show, really captures this spirit of community. Each year, every class puts together hilarious skits and videos to highlight the most memorable and funny experiences. The friendly competition culminates with a faculty performance of original song and dance, reinforcing that the Downstate community and connection is not just strong within the student body, but also with the faculty.

My experience at Downstate has been above and beyond what I could have imagined for medical school. If you have any questions about Downstate, medical school in general, or life in Brooklyn, please do not hesitate to reach out! I wish you all the best of luck and hope you choose to join the wonderful Downstate community.

Shari