As a premedical student, working as an anesthesia technician has been a great opportunity. It has allowed me to be a fly on the wall, and I have enjoyed observing countless areas of expertise that are exercised daily by nurses, physicians, and surgeons.

With shadowing and volunteer opportunities limited during this application cycle I consider myself lucky to be surrounded by knowledgeable and friendly care providers on an almost daily basis. It has allowed me to ensure I want to pursue a career in healthcare and will undoubtedly influence the decisions I make throughout medical school.

From this internship I have learned how to be more assertive and work as a member of a cohesive care team. I have learned how to better empathize with patients, and I have come to accept that I have a long way to go and it is okay that I don’t know everything right now.

Working in the operating room of my local hospital has been eye opening. My greatest takeaway: it requires a dedicated team to make each procedure run smoothly.

- While doctors may be the first individuals we think of, the nurses and technicians who aid them are just as important. At times they become another set of hands without which the level of care would greatly diminish.

- Realizing that doctors are different and unique individuals, like you and me, was another important lesson. No two are the same, but they all are great!

- Observing the mannerisms and attitudes of these physicians is inspiring and makes me want to develop the same attributes as well.

There are several expectations and duties that come with being an Anesthesia Technician. Listed below are a few:

- I am responsible for transporting patients from the surgical floors to the OR and sometimes back again.

- I help clean the rooms between each case and stock the anesthesiologist’s equipment and machines.

- I received scrub training and often get called into cases where I aid doctors with various procedures.

- I am trained to operate urological lasers and assist the urologists when they blast kidney stones.

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| Figures: above is a typical operating room. To the left are two case types I have scrubbed in on, a femoral nail and an open bowel resection. |

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| Figures (clockwise): a life flight helicopter, a suction canister, a diagram of the intubation process, and a patient under anesthesia. |
Abstract:

Throughout this semester I have worked hard to have a successful internship experience at Logan Regional Hospital, and I have immensely enjoyed my time spent as an anesthesia technician. An important opportunity in my life, the credits received from this internship will help to complete the remaining requirements for me to graduate from Utah State University. The life lessons learned, and the experience in general, have also aided me in receiving acceptance to one of my top choices in medical schools. I could not be more excited to begin this next chapter of my education, and I owe a small part of that to this course. These two achievements that I have mentioned made the internship/COOP experience an incredibly memorable one and I am grateful that I was able to be a part of it. On top of what has already been mentioned, I enjoyed the opportunities I had to learn and grow personally and for the privilege it was to be surrounded by incredibly knowledgeable doctors and healthcare providers daily. I have been able to ensure a career in healthcare is meant for me and look forward to continuing down this path. By getting to expose myself to a wide range of surgical specialties I have had my eyes opened to the possibilities that are now available to me as I begin medical school. By working hard in this simple yet important position, I have shown others, including myself, that I am ready to take the next step and continue learning more about medicine in both academic and practical settings.