

Oki, My name is Latisha Hewton-Backfat from Calgary, Alberta and I am a Blackfoot from Siksika, Alberta. However, I currently reside in Edmonton, AB during the school year attending the University of Alberta's Medical school. I finished my Bachelor of Science at the University of Calgary in April of 2006. Throughout the years I have kept myself busy with things such as the Dream Catcher youth program, sports, acting for the Neo Eccentric Entertainment, Lasting Impressions youth group through the Canadian Mental health Association, planning committee and facilitator for the First Youth Gathering for Aboriginal Health etc. All of these endeavours I truly enjoyed and I feel helped build my experience to make me a good applicant for medical school. I felt that by being a well rounded person that didn't just have the grades helped be to be admitted to medical school. I am really happy with my medical experience thus far and I am excited for the future. I chose medicine, besides the obvious that I want to help people, but I am fascinated by how the body functions and how we as doctors can help people to stay healthy holistically and how we can fix things when needed.

My advice to all medical applicants is: keep yourself busy to build your life experience. This will help you get admitted to medical school but will also help when you are accepted because you will be accustomed to being busy. As well, there are so many resources to help you, so use them.

Lastly, the biggest surprise to me was that the hardest part of medical school is getting in! Once you are here, you are here to stay.

I look forward to the increasing number of aboriginal doctors and health care professionals because it is us who can make the difference for our people.

Latisha

Med 2010

University of Alberta