

From the moment I was diagnosed with a chronic illness at fourteen, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. My journey as a patient showed me the many people and processes that contribute to providing care, and I realized I wanted to play a role in improving that process for others. Over time, I discovered that healthcare administration, and especially the connection between policy and patient outcomes, was the field where I could make the most meaningful impact.

My academic and professional experiences have equipped me with both a strong foundation in healthcare and transferable skills that apply directly to policy and administration. Through a two-year health services program at Jefferson College, I became both a Certified Nursing Assistant and a Certified Patient Care Technician. These roles gave me direct clinical experience, allowing me to develop patient care, empathy, and communication skills while also helping me understand the challenges patients face within the healthcare system. These insights shape how I approach healthcare policy—with a patient-centered perspective. In addition to my clinical background, I have gained leadership and operational skills in other settings. As a shift leader at McAlister's Deli, I learned how to manage teams, enforce health and safety regulations, and ensure efficiency—skills that mirror the coordination and problem-solving required in healthcare administration. My minor in Human Development and Family Sciences has further deepened my understanding of the social and family dynamics that influence health outcomes, which I believe is essential when considering the broader impact of health policy.

I am particularly interested in health-related legislative committees, because these settings address the structural challenges that impact the lives of patients statewide. I want to learn how state government shapes healthcare access and how legislation and policy decisions influence both patients and providers. This internship directly aligns with my long-term goal of becoming a healthcare administrator in the public or government sector. I want to be an advocate for individuals who struggle to access care and contribute to building systems where healthcare is not a privilege, but a right. By combining my patient perspective, clinical training, leadership experience, and academic studies, I bring empathy, communication, and a strong work ethic to the offices I serve.

Participating in the Civic Leaders Internship Program will allow me to strengthen my knowledge of government processes, learn how policy is created and implemented, and connect my healthcare background with real-world policy experience. This opportunity is a critical step in preparing me to dedicate my career to advocating for patients and improving health outcomes across Missouri and beyond.