Going into high school as a math nerd, I just assumed I would do engineering—it was what both my older brothers were pursuing, and everyone told me I would be good at it. But I found out very quickly that physics was not for me. Statistics, on the other hand, clicked right away—I saw a way that my childhood love for math and newfound love for economics could come together.

This initially led me towards actuarial science, not quantitative finance. I took college classes in higher-level math and introductions to concepts like annuities, and I found it all very engaging. But as I learned more about the math and the job, I found that both the content and the career are too slow-paced. As an alternative application of my math skills, I turned to quant: everything I loved about actuarial science, but fast-paced, higher rigor, and never repetitive.