Owen Burt Virginia Tech M.S. in Statistics

Professional Goals Statement

With the increasing reliance on data-driven decision-making across industries, I am eager to deepen my understanding of statistical concepts and methodologies. A master's degree in statistics will enable me to analyze complex problems, develop innovative solutions, and contribute meaningfully to the field. The graduate work I plan to undertake will provide advanced professional knowledge as I pursue a career as a statistician.

I am a strong candidate for Virginia Tech's M.S. in Statistics because of my proficient academic background and commitment to excellence in my studies. Completing three bachelor's degrees in Mathematics, Data Science, and Computer Science, across four years has strengthened my abilities to grasp numerous concepts in distinct, yet related fields. These degrees have provided a foundation in programming, data analysis, and problem-solving, which complements the theoretical and applied focus of Virginia Tech's statistics program. In my search for a graduate program, Virginia Tech stood out due to its rigorous coursework, emphasis on advanced and theoretical studies, and the opportunity to engage with a vibrant academic community. The nature of this program's curriculum aligns closely with my interests and aspirations, making it an ideal environment for my growth and education as I prepare for a career in statistics.

From this program, I expect to acquire both knowledge and experience. I aim to become proficient in advanced statistical theories and methods, as well as gain practical experience through coursework and hands-on projects. The program will prepare me to apply statistical techniques to solve real-world problems, effectively. Additionally, I hope to refine my research skills, enhance my ability to communicate complex ideas, and build collaborative relationships with peers and faculty.

While I do not have a specific area of interest at this time, my background in computer science positions me well to explore intersections between machine learning and statistics. I am particularly intrigued by the application of statistical methods in machine learning and predictive

modeling. Furthermore, I am considering pursuing actuarial science, making Virginia Tech's M.S. in Statistics the ideal pathway to explore and solidify my post-grad career.

As a student, I will contribute my enthusiastic attitude, disciplined work ethic, and collaborative spirit to the program. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to work in the Statistical Consulting Office, where I can apply my knowledge to real-world problems while collaborating with peers and faculty. Additionally, I hope to participate in collaborative research projects that leverage statistical methods to address practical challenges.

Upon completing the program, I aspire to apply my advanced statistical expertise in professional settings, whether in industry, academia, or consulting. My goal is to make meaningful contributions to the field and promote the use of data-driven approaches to solve societal issues. With the foundation provided by Virginia Tech's program, I am confident in my ability to achieve these aspirations.