

Professional Goal Statement for Master's Degree in Health Data Science

Growing up in Nigeria, I was encouraged by my parents to pursue a degree in medicine, a field many believe offers the best career prospects. This was despite my excelling in subjects like mathematics and physics, which laid the foundation for careers in technology and engineering. In fact, I graduated high school with a distinction in mathematics. However, when I was offered a spot to study physiotherapy instead of medicine, I accepted, seeing it as a way to stay within healthcare and make a meaningful impact. In hindsight, I do not regret this decision, as it allowed me to understand healthcare challenges in new ways and ultimately led me toward health technology.

During my time as a physiotherapy student, I encountered numerous cases where patients turned to traditional bone setters due to misinformation, only to experience severe complications that could have been prevented with timely medical intervention. These experiences underscored the dangers of relying on non-evidence-based practices and fueled my desire to explore innovative solutions in healthcare.

The COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 marked a pivotal moment in my journey when my brother introduced me to data science. I quickly recognized its transformative potential in healthcare, particularly in disseminating accurate information in local languages and enhancing early disease detection through machine learning. My passion for applying data-driven insights led me to volunteer with AERITS, a non-profit organization focused on addressing health issues across Africa. In this role, I contribute to analyzing disease patterns using real-time data, which aids in anticipating health crises and supporting rapid response initiatives.

Looking ahead, my goal is to leverage health data science to tackle critical issues in resource allocation, especially in rural areas where health disparities are most pronounced. I am committed to harnessing predictive analytics to analyze disease prevalence, healthcare facility capacities, and demographic data. By doing so, I aim to facilitate more strategic allocation of healthcare resources, ensuring that underserved populations receive timely and appropriate interventions.

An MSc in Health Data Science is the perfect next step in achieving these ambitions. The program's robust curriculum will equip me with the advanced tools necessary to develop impactful healthcare technologies. I am particularly eager to engage in designing innovative technical solutions that address pressing health challenges globally. By integrating multiple data sources into a user-friendly platform, I envision enhancing our understanding of health trends and improving resource allocation.

A key aspect of my approach is community engagement in data collection. By involving local residents and healthcare professionals, I aim to create a platform that accurately reflects unique health challenges, fostering trust and collaboration. Real-time analytics will enable healthcare providers to respond swiftly to emerging health trends, such as spikes in respiratory illnesses, allowing local clinics to prepare for increased patient demand.

Ultimately, my vision is to create scalable solutions that adapt to various rural communities, leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence to bridge the gap in healthcare access. I am confident that this program will provide the foundation I need to drive healthcare innovation, contributing to a future where access to quality healthcare is a reality for all, particularly in the most vulnerable populations.