Personal Statement

To begin with, please allow me to introduce myself from three aspects: my personal learning experience, academic research experience (including achievements), and motivation behind my application (including research interests and future development thoughts).

Learning Experience

I have gone through ups and downs in my learning career. My undergraduate school is Nanyue College of Hengyang Normal University, a private undergraduate school, commonly known as "The third batch of undergraduates" (In China, the first and second batch of undergraduates are having better scores in the National College Entrance Examination, known as "Gaokao"). I was hit hard after knowing my score for the Gaokao. My mom said that you still need to apply a college even if your score is not desired. I laid on the bed, covered my head with a quilt, and turned a deaf ear to my mom's urging, just said: "do what you want, I will follow".

The failure of the college entrance examination is a very important opportunity for me to examine myself. From elementary school to junior high school, I can easily achieve good grades. But it became so difficult for me to achieve goods grades after in high school, even I have tried my best. At the moment when the Kaogao results were announced, no matter how much I wanted to escape, there was nowhere to escape. I was not submitted to the results. The grades of the college entrance examination declared me a complete loser, but I wanted to prove myself again.

With a mentality of not admitting defeat, I still maintained my high school routine every day during my undergraduate studies, waking up at 6 in the morning, returning to my dormitory at 10:30 in the night, and resting in the library at noon, everyday like this without exception. I made a summary of my failure in the college entrance examination. First of all, I didn't have a positive attitude, I pretended to work hard, but not made my every endeavor. For example, in the time when others ate breakfast, I made time for breakfast to read, as if I was racing against time, but what I was learning, what goals to achieve, I had no plan. My plan was to sit there. Secondly, I was not active. I listened to teachers in class, my eyes were wide open, as if I was listening very carefully, in fact, I did not listen. I should consciously grasp the focus of my teacher's class and really participate in the class. Finally, my personality was the reason too. I was an independent person, I often solve problems by myself. I was afraid that communicating with others may cause troubles to others. There were so many questions in high school. For example, what's the use of trigonometric functions? To prove why this is the case, can we change it? How did scientists come up with this concept? Many questions need to be answered by people with professional and profound knowledge, I can't figure it out as a high school student, and as a result, I often fell into a dead end, found no answer and helpless.

In college, I maintained the same routine as in high school, and my mindset changed. I talked to my seniors and understood what certificates were needed for graduation, and I studied hard for that. In the first semester of enrollment, I applied for the National Computer Level 2 programming language design C++. There was no such course at the school and I did not have any computer programming knowledge. I started self-study with the books and question bank I bought, and I spent all my energy doing tests outside of class. No pains, no gains. I was the first person in my grade to get a computer certificate. Looking back, it is a natural thing to do, but at the

time, it was the first time I disciplined myself and won a small battle. Since then, I have told myself that either I don't do it or do it well. If I choose to do it, I must do my best, although I may fail, there may be scoffs. But as long as I really worked hard, that's enough. It is better than fake efforts, I am not a talented person, and I don't think I will achieve great achievements with unserious efforts. I know that my English was not good, so I went to the playground every morning to practice my spoken English loudly. I know that I should give priority to my major. I listened carefully in my major class, reviewed what the teacher said, and did exercises to consolidate my knowledge. In order to challenge myself, I took a lot of examinations and won many certificates, such as computer science level 3, and accounting qualification certificate. I also participated in many competitions, such as mathematical modeling, English speech competition, etc. Small goals make up my undergraduate life.

During this period, I had the honor to read Mr. Wu Jun's "The Beauty of Mathematics" and "Top of the Wave", which outlined the development of computers and the role of mathematics in the field of computers in vivid and easy-to-understand language, and answered a question that had bothered me for a long time, "What is the use of mathematics except for buying vegetables?" I felt the charm of mathematics, and the small trigonometric functions can also describe the degree of correlation between things, which intrigued my curiosity. I hope that the mathematics I learned can also be useful in life. I always hope that I can be a useful person, and the things I have learned can be used. I have a preliminary vision of what my future will look like: I will learn English, mathematics and programming well, becoming a useful talent by making use of these three courses.

After graduating from college in 2017, I participated in the Special Post Plan of the rural compulsory education and became a rural teacher. In my senior year in college, I thought about entering graduate school, but I was worried about the heavy burden in my family (I was the oldest of the three children in my family), so I chose to get a job first and think about what I was pursuing seriously. This work experience, although not learning new knowledge, is a more important learning experience for me. First of all, my soul was liberated, I could become a teacher and have a stable job, my mother was very happy, she no longer put all kinds of requirements on me, the once "no negotiation" became "do it if you like". I can date and work freely, and access control is gone. Secondly, the work has given me a sense of presence, the trust of students, and the appreciation of leaders, which has given me a lot of strength. I love my job, and I want to expand my professionalism, so I eager to continue my education.

Academic Research Experience

In 2020, the three-year service period of the Special Post expired, and the classes I taught successfully graduated, and I was lucky to be admitted to Guangxi Normal University. Statistics major is my favorite major. This major is close to life, giving me an opportunity to improve my abilities, such as mathematical skills, programming ability etc. I told myself that this time, I will do my best without regrets. I cut my long hair, put on my hat, changed into sportswear, I want everything to be simple and convenient, immersing myself in academic research.

I summarized the merits and demerits of the undergraduate period. The advantage is that I can stick to the goal until it is achieved, and the disadvantage is that there is no great relationship between the goals, and there is no principal line. At the graduate level, my goal is to make complicated work simple, focusing on learning professional skills, and use other goals to support the major.

Through studying academics, I learned many important qualities, such as: truthfulness, facts, logic + attentiveness + patience, sharing + respect, and dialectics.

1. Truthfulness

Being a person is the premise of doing things, and doing things reflects being a person. To do papers, especially experimental data need to be restored to the truth, so that others can reproduce it, then there can be no vanity, no fraud, and must be true records.

2. Facts

Facts mean that for this knowledge, knowing is knowing, and not knowing is not knowing. Each step of calculation and derivation must respect objective laws, not conjecture or self-creation, and can find a basis in the book. We must be objective, not subjective, and not taken for granted.

3. Logic + Attentiveness + Patience

Logic is not only reflected in calculations, but also in writing. The paper is actually to show others your research results, naturally we do not want bad statements to make the results affected. How to write a good paper, this requires logic. Directly showing readers the problems we want to solve, the advantages and disadvantages of traditional methods, and the innovation of our own methods, these need to be stated logically between paragraphs and sentences, which is a detailed job.

I learned this from Teacher Qin. He reads what I write carefully and gives me advice sincerely and without criticism. He double-checks my paper for grammatical errors, proper paragraph arrangement, and highlighting highlights etc. Grading papers is more grinding than writing papers, and my teacher, without a word of complaint. His conscientiousness and attentiveness made me realize that I should have such attitude too when doing academic research.

Patience was also learned from Teacher Qin. Teacher Qin himself wrote a review of a certain field, and sent it to us at the beginning of the school, which is a very complete manuscript in our eyes, and can be submitted directly. At the end of the semester, teacher Qin was still revising the manuscript and showed us where the problems he had revised, and how to change them. I asked, did the editorial agency ask these questions? Teacher Qin said no. He hasn't submitted yet, and he checked it himself again and again. In our eyes, this manuscript is perfect, but in the eyes of teacher Qin, it is not. I learned what it means to work patiently to produce fine works.

Logic is the framework of a paper, and attentiveness and patience are the flesh and blood of the paper. From learning to write papers, I learned how to do things. We have to have an outline, and then gradually improve it, until it is close to perfection.

4. Sharing + Respect

I really don't know much about the w orld, or sometimes feel like I'm a frog at the bottom of the well. Entering graduate school was like stepping into another world that I had never heard of. I didn't know that knowledge originally appeared in the form of a paper, which first appeared in the mind of a scientist, and then verified through practice, written and published. And it will be popularized and spread if found by talent scouts. If this knowledge reaches a point where everyone should know, it will be written as a teaching material for a wider audience. It can be seen that the textbook of junior high school is called "general knowledge", in other words, it belongs to basic common sense. I really find it amazing that these scholars have worked so hard to get and are willing to share their results with others. Whether out of selflessness or utilitarianism, it is very meaningful in itself.

From the previous discussion, we also know that it is not easy to write a paper, it is not easy to be rigorous and concise, and it is even more difficult to explore knowledge, in short, it is not a fun thing. No wonder others say that being a scholar is anti-human, we evolved from ancient times, we have been shuttling through the jungle, we walk upright to move better, but the most basic thing to be a scholar is to sit still, overcome laziness, and so on. Respect is the attitude I should possess.

5. Dialectics

> It is difficult and necessary to learn to treat others' scientific research achievements dialectically, which is also the driving force of academic progress. The scholars and their works have been raised to a higher level. We can't worship blindly like worshiping Buddha, it will become superstition. We should still treat it with a scientific perspective and analyze it with dialectics. We should look at other people's paper dialectically, although it is difficult, just as my teacher said.

In addition to the qualities mentioned above, there are many other good qualities that I see in scholars, such as humility, perseverance, and so on. At my graduate school, I have learned a lot and achieved some small results. I actively communicated with my teachers and complete and submit three papers in collaboration with my teachers, including one Chinese paper and two English papers. In the third year of my studies, I received a new assignment from my teacher, which was an unprecedented challenge, and there were almost no existing papers to refer to, but we still made good progress and are currently working on new papers, two of which are expected.

Motivation behind my Application

Passion + challenge = motivation behind my application. Passion × ability = my ability to carry pressure.

Statistics has a wide range of applications, it can be combined with many disciplines, such as medicine, economics, computer science, etc. Mastering statistical knowledge can accomplish many things, such as a Bayesian formula can complete spam filtering or mail classification and other problems. Understanding statistical ideas, we can face the uncertainties in life more calmly and more confidently, for example, when you are very frustrated that you have not succeeded, probability theory will tell you to hold on. If you repeat a few times, even the small probability of life on the earth can occur in the case of infinite time, what else do you have to fear. So, I like statistics very much, and I'm not satisfied with the initial study of my graduate school, I want to complete the last 12,000-mile-long march in this major, although it is a little difficult.

In addition to my interest in natural sciences and my love of statistics, my personality is also a bit adventurous and I like challenges. I am interested in outdoor extreme sports such as bungee jumping, cliff walking, rock climbing and would like to give them a try. If I can accomplish something "impossible", I will give myself a lot of encouragement in my heart. Because the PhD is not easy, I would like to challenge it.
My research interest lies in how to do a good job and do it the best, which might be not possible. Let me quote a phrase from Cheng Jia, "Idealists do not demand that the environment is completely ideal, but idealists do not give up the pursuit of ideals." If it is a lecture, I will think about how to better give the listener a good presentation in logic and vision. If it is a presentation, I will think about how to describe what I want to say in simple language. If it's my major, I will think about what knowledge will be further needed to benefit my future development. I focus on the thing itself, the thing itself is meaningful, then I just think about how to do it well. My vision for the future is to achieve further progress in statistics in the long run. If I am lucky enough to study at your school, I would definitely cherish the opportunity, redouble my efforts, and make greater achievements.