**Statement of Purpose**

While my background in public accounting might not seem ideal for a candidate pursuing a Master’s degree in data science, I believe my exposure to using analytics and extracting information from large data sets has guided me toward my true passion. In public accounting, we are often provided data from our clients that must be manipulated so we can properly analyze and guide our audits around this information. I have always loved numbers and statistics, especially when I am trying to gain an edge over the competition by gleaning better and more useful information from the same information source. At this point, it seems that a Master’s degree in data science would equip me with the necessary foundational skills to pursue a career in data analytics. In order to prepare myself, I have enrolled in the “IBM Data Science Professional Certificate” course as an attempt to catch myself up to speed with some of the requirements for these masters programs and gain exposure to things like SQL and Python and I plan on completing this course in the coming weeks.

My ultimate professional goal is to merge the data analytics world and the sports world to help an NFL or NBA franchise use the massive amounts of information out there to build the best sports team. This has already begun, especially in the NBA, and I feel this trend of merging analytics and sports is only going to grow. As these organizations only hire the most qualified applicants, I believe a Master’s from Northwestern would set me apart from the other applicants. The credentials of the degree paired with my passion for delivering valuable insights from information would allow me to reach my goal of helping run a sports franchise and leading them to a world championship.