Sam Graf

Geology Major, Spanish minor

Graduating May 2019

Took AP Stats in high school, took calc 2 and linear algebra at Midd, also GIS, Computing for the Sciences, and Biostatistics

I grew up in Loma, Colorado, just west of Grand Junction next to the Utah border. Both my parents went to Middlebury, otherwise I would have had no idea what the school was. I play baseball here and enjoy skiing, mountain biking, backpacking. I’m usually up for most outdoor activities. I play French Horn and bass guitar but unfortunately have not prioritized either of them very well at Middlebury.

I’ve really enjoyed the computer science classes that I’ve taken. Biostats was cool because it got me started in using R, which is something that I’ve wanted to get into for awhile to work on baseball datasets. I enjoyed computing for the sciences because it covered a lot of basic topics in python that I feel comfortable continuing. If I wanted to learn how to do something simple in python, I feel confident that I could do it with my current knowledge of the language, given a set of instructions. I really enjoyed my previous math classes, however, they’ve always been difficult for me, which is really too bad. I was enjoying multivariable calculus until I had to drop the class after my first exam, and thus ended my aspirations of being a math major. The intro computer science classes I’ve taken have been easier, and I’ve enjoyed making graphs, doing statistical tests, and manipulating the data. It’s satisfying when you finally get something to run correctly or work well.

After graduation, I’m looking at seasonal jobs in biology, geology, and baseball. Most importantly, I’d like to continue working with data, which is why I really want to take this class, even if I have to miss it quite a bit. Analyzing biological data as well as baseball statistical datasets are two data types that I’d like to get into more during the class. I’ve already done some simple tests on my baseball swing metrics as well as statistics from previous years, but I’d love to delve more deeply on these topics and more that have carryover to whatever I will do this summer and beyond. This will certainly be challenging, as it usually takes me a long time to do things, but I’ve enjoyed working on data in the past so hopefully I will enjoy the process.

I really appreciate the flexibility you’ve already shown and I’ve heard great things about your teaching and the course’s applications to a variety of topics, so I’m looking forward to it.

See you Wednesday!