

Savannah Hammerton

GRADUATE STUDENT, EPIDEMIOLOGY & BIOSTATISTICS

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Personal Statement

When I first applied for the MPH program at UGA, I reflected on my path to finding a career that I could be passionate about and excel in. This path took me in a number of different directions, but when I began my course of study at UGA in Fall 2020, I quickly became certain that I had found the career I had been searching for. I became increasingly interested in learning about epidemiologic and biostatistical methods; so much so that I applied for and transferred to the MS program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. As I have worked in my classes for this degree, I have found that the more I learn, the more I realize I don't know. I have also found that I have a strong desire to learn more and build expertise in this field. To that end, I am applying to the Ph.D program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, with a concentration in Epidemiology.

I have particular interest in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. I have worked to develop expertise in this area during my master's program, and hope to continue this development throughout my doctoral program. More specifically, I am fascinated by the One Health approach to studying infectious diseases, and would like to build subject matter expertise in the effects of interactions between humans, non-human animals, and the environment. I aim to study these things through the development of conceptual understanding of the various ASPECTS contributing to disease spread, and applying that knowledge to strong epidemiological, biostatistical, and modeling SKILLS.