

Shih-Ni Prim
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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my interest in and qualifications for the position of Data Analyst at the Center for Aging & Health and the Division of Geriatric Medicine. I have completed a master's degree in Statistics and am currently a second-year PhD student in Statistics at NC State University. I am experienced with all commonly used statistical methods, well-versed in statistical inference theory, and capable of constructing statistical models. Furthermore, I believe that public health is essential to improve people's lives, happiness, and well-being. I am confident that I can contribute to your team in a meaningful and substantial way.

I have taken 16 courses at the master's and doctoral levels (and 3 more in progress), including statistical methods, multivariate and longitudinal data analysis, statistical consulting, statistical learning, Bayesian inference, Causal inference, etc. Interested in developing methods informed by applied research, I have been working on building a statistical model to find causal effects in spatial data, which can benefit public health, environmental, and climate research and, more broadly, any data with spatial correlation. My coursework and research experience has equipped me with the ability to learn more methods, study advanced theory, and develop new methods.

Besides knowledge in statistical inference, I have strong coding skills in R and SAS. I obtained the Base Programming Certificate for SAS in May 2020. I program almost daily, and my research requires me to build models in R from scratch, using only the most basic packages or libraries. I have also done data analysis projects that require me to do data cleaning, exploratory data analysis, and regression analysis using ready-made packages.

Outside statistics and coding, I have relevant research skills, including writing, editing, and collaboration. I have published journal articles as a first author and a coauthor and worked as a writing tutor. I am currently collaborating with researchers in the department of biological and agricultural engineering on a project examining factors that could contribute to harmful algal blooms. Collaboration brings me joy, because I love learning about other fields and using statistics as a means to have direct, positive impacts on the outside world.

Even though I am still finishing my coursework, I am looking for part-time, off-campus employment to supplement my family income, which has been affected by my husband's being laid off in July. This data analyst position is a perfect fit for my qualifications, interests, and current financial needs. I look forward to having a conversation with you on what I can contribute to the Center for Aging & Health and the Division of Geriatric Medicine.

Sincerely,

Shih-Ni Prim