

Kumasi, Ghana

Andrea Davis



Program: Global Public Health in Ghana, Summer 2018

Major: Geography

Earning the Career Development Badge:



I want to teach as a professor after completing my PhD in geography. With this goal in mind, I seek to visit new continents, such as Africa, so that I can teach using personal experiences and images. One day, I would love to provide this type of learning abroad experience for my own group of students. This project provided a platform for primary data

collection, as a Research Assistant, furthering my skills surrounding research which is critical for my career development. I was the first student to map the results of our project, focused on antibiotic resistance, providing insight into the spatial distribution of our preliminary results. In addition, the project allowed me to sharpen skills essential to my degree (e.g., Geographic Information Systems) while traveling abroad.

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



Community engagement is essential for creating successful public health efforts. This research project was unique because of the interdisciplinary background of each member participating in the research project. The group members consisted of both local medical students from Kwame Nkrumah

university of Science and Technology and a group of University of Utah students. This brought a diverse set of skills to the project and allowed for open continuous engagement between the local community members and our traveling group. Finally, I met several ambitious medical students from the local University that have become not only great contacts, but good friends as well.

Transferable Skills:



I plan to apply the skills I have learned to my future school and career goals. I want to teach after completing my degree and one day I would love to guide a group of students on a learning abroad experience. By participating in experiences such as the learning abroad in Ghana, I can share personal reflections from these

trips with the students in my classroom, and potentially with students in the field as well. While participating in this learning abroad, I felt that I was able to sharpen a variety of skills focused on research, community engagement, and my own personal development.



"Participating in a learning abroad, such as my experience in Ghana, will never be carried out according to plan. These deviations from the plan are the moments I find myself learning the most valuable lessons. Personally, I find that being immersed in different cultures in a variety of geographic locations is critical for seeing new viewpoints and exploring undiscovered passions."