

KUMASI, GHANA

Rebecca Pipkin



Program: Global Public Health in Ghana, Summer 2018

Major: Public Administration

Earning the Career Development Badge:



For the career development badge, the entire experience was useful. My dream career is to work for the US State Department as a Foreign Service Officer. As part of that, I would be moving from post to post and going to a new country every two to three years. I would need to work with local communities and to adapt to situations and form creative solutions to

difficult challenges. I will also need to work in groups and be able to coordinate with team members. All of these skills are ones that I was able to work on during my experience with this learning abroad.

Earning the Research Experience Badge:



As part of the research experience badge, I was working with a dermatologist to gather data on the impact of skin disease in the communities outside of Kumasi. Prior to even going to Ghana, we met a few times and reviewed important terminology, the interview process, as well as our plan for compiling and reviewing the data. I was able to complete the

IRB training and learn about ethics in research that will assist me with any future research I may conduct. Once we arrived in Ghana, we realized that we needed to rearrange the way we conducted interviews. Originally, we thought that we would have participants coming to us at a community center, but instead we ended up walking the streets and interviewing participants in their homes. This helped me to learn how to be flexible and how to still gather important data even if situations change.

Transferable Skills:



Completing a learning abroad in Ghana required me to get out of my comfort zone and form creative solutions to unexpected problems. I have used this skill in my job daily. As part of the program, we also were required to work in groups and in my current classes, we do a lot of group work for projects.

Additionally, as part of my master's degree program, I am required to write a major research paper. I decided to write on the health system in Ghana. My experience in Ghana combined with the professional connections I made there has greatly helped me in writing this paper.



“Being able to go to Ghana has changed my perspective on how I view many low and middle-income countries, I was able to see the potential and the creativity that people use in everyday life. I hope that I have a chance to return one day and learn more.”