

# Charlee Ford

## Epidemiology (On Campus)



*I would like to acknowledge my PI Dr. Robert Cook who helped me grow and foster an excellent business relationship between SHARC at UF and the FDOH and for encouraging me to always pursue my goals.*

*I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Yan Wang my faculty advisor for always being responsive and willing to answer all my research questions and guide me in the best courses to take to grow as an Epidemiologist.*

*I would also like to thank Dr. Cindy Prins for always being available to discuss ways I can assist the program and my fellow gators.*

*Finally I want to thank my professors for always being willing to sit down with me and helping me navigate any question I had to improve my understanding.*

During my time in the program I was honored to be the elected PHSA president and the liaison for the MPH epidemiology students. In these positions I was able to connect the various programs together and work on more service events together. Such as events highlighting the importance of the emerging field of ONE Health. As well as connecting the PHSA and Delta Omega groups in activities for Public Health week and other service events in the community.

As PHSA president I was also able to set the trend for bringing seminar speakers into the biweekly meetings. These seminars allowed students to ask alumni specific questions on the ways they navigated post-graduation life and the choices they made. Such as following fellowships, going straight in a PhD program, and beginning work at non-profits and state positions. Additionally, I was able to coordinate and execute a successful tabling event with DOH programs and UF organizations for public health week to highlight community health education.

### **How has your University of Florida MPH helped you achieve your goals?**

It has opened up a lot of doors for me to connect to experts in my field, and grow into an epidemiologist. It let me really focus on my passion for infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance concerns in Florida.

### **What are your plans after graduation?**

Begin a full time career as a state HAI Epidemiologist.