

Patricia Zielinski

Epidemiology (On Campus)



Would like to thank the amazing professors that helped me over the past two years, especially Dr. Vaddiparti as my advisor.

I wouldn't have made it without the support of my wonderful parents especially my amazing mom who put up with constant calls and managing my emotions from over 4 hours away.

Thank you to my amazing MICU family for always supporting me and my dreams and pushing me to become a better healthcare professional.

Also a quick shout out to my kitten Tuna, whose bushy tail was used to wipe my tears the past couple months!

After finishing up my undergraduate degree at the University of Florida, I became a combined student in our MPH program. Over the past two years I have met amazing friends, researchers, and current/future healthcare professionals that have inspired me to continue pursuing my dream of becoming a physician. While I don't know what field of medicine I would like to pursue, I am extremely interested in acute and critical care as well as infectious disease. The MPH program gave me the ability to work for the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County as an epidemiologist to manage and trace COVID-19 cases. While only working there for a short period of time, it grew my appreciation for our field.

Hopefully during my gap year between finishing my degree and getting into medical school, I will be able to travel frequently and spend time with friends and family that I couldn't while busy with my studies.

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

The MPH Program in Epidemiology gave me the foundation to public health and epidemiology that I needed for my future aspirations of becoming a physician. It will allow me to better understand health disparities and disease trends that I may see in my career.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be continuing working in the Medical ICU at UF Health and with research organizations at UF while applying to medical schools this summer.