

From the perspective of your status as of (March following graduation), what would you do differently concerning your undergraduate education?

I would have pursued further internship opportunities, and began in statistics (I spent my freshman & sophomore years in political science, and didn't wind up using that experience)

Change my degree

More research/ internships

Take more coding classes

Take not computer science courses

I would've taken more code based courses. I also work on a marketing team, but I have zero marketing knowledge or experience. I would've been nice to taken an outside course on it or something (since my college didn't offer classes like that).

I would pursue more independent studies in pure math since this is what I want to pursue now.

Not major in statistics, it made me not want to go to graduate school for statistics

I would have participated in an internship, even though it would have caused me to be in school for a longer period of time.

Spend more time learning some coding and bioinformatical methods (though my degree makes learning these relatively easier)

I would take non-parametric classes, which for some reason was not offered while I was enrolled for undergraduate. I would also take on a computer science major. I think a good understanding of algorithms can help learn the statistical models and methods better.

More real world applications

I wish my undergraduate education had a class where professors throw a scenario at you and ask you what statistical method you will use and how you will use it. I know a lot about different statistical methods, but I have trouble discerning when to use each method in real-world situations.

Include more computational and applied material in the curriculum

Minor in Comp Sci

Taken more computer science courses.

I would've started my freshman year as a math major, and would've attempted to develop a much deeper relationship with the members of my faculty.

I would have taken more relevant courses.

I would take more applied statistics courses and coding courses.

Take more programming courses

Get a BA/MA in Mathematics

Everything went according to plan

Nothing.

Find better professors

I am sorry, but I cannot offer much insight here. I feel very fortunate with how my education all turned out, and with the job I now have. I suppose I sort of wish I had participated in some sort of extra-curricular project, like the SOA team challenges, or a research project with a professor. But I frankly do not feel bad for not doing those things.

Nothing with regards of education. I think it was more so of practicing interviewing. I feel that I was fully capable of the job, but entry-level actuaries are on an all-time low of hiring.

Give more feedback on writing assignments

No changes. I believe a bachelor's degree from my university would not be satisfactory, so I am pleased with my decision to pursue a master's degree.

Learn more coding languages.

Go to a school for statistical computing instead of bayesian

I would have made an effort to work with faculty more often and would have asked about projects and opportunities.

I actually feel that I did exactly the right things for my education. HOWEVER, that is NOT because it was required. In fact, in my opinion, my undergraduate degree should require a course in Microsoft Excel (which I took) and perhaps a course in VBA (which I also took). Day-to-day, those two courses have been more helpful than any of the statistics courses I took!! Can you believe it? Sure, one day, it will be good to draw upon my remembrance of statistical theory, and it is especially helpful for taking actuarial exams, but on a day-to-day basis (i.e., the VAST majority of my time), I am working in Excel on models that have already been built by others, and I update them with current data and interpret the results. I would have been severely handicapped had I not known how to use Excel when beginning this job. So, in conclusion, I did exactly the right things despite my degree not requiring me to, and I am SO GLAD that I did.

Nothing.

Nothing

I would have researched the stats majors more thoroughly before picking one.

I would have branched out more on my own and learned as much as I possibly could. I would've continually practiced what I was taught in school so I didn't forget anything.

I would probably choose a different major

I would have studied Computer Science with a minor in Statistics.

Deal with messier data and teach how to handle those cases

Go to a different school

Nothing.

Get a math minor as well. The double major really helped me though.

Learn with the purpose of gaining skills that will be useful down the road, rather than with the goal of getting an A.

I would have taken more classes and spread out those I took so I would have gotten more out of them. But I did complete the program in two years after changing my major so this is to be expected.

I wish I could do more internships and take more programmings as possible.

I would have a double minor or just a single minor in Computer Programming or Computer Science.

Take more actuary exams

Dive even deeper into the classes!

That's hard to say. I've wondered if I could have accepted B's in several classes rather than "A"s and focused more on actuarial exams.

Try harder to get an internship

nothing

Get better grades

I would have taken the SQL class over my capstone. I use SQL everyday. It should be required by all stats majors.

Add more statistical theory

Get a CS Minor

I wouldn't change anything because I ended up where I want to be, even though I am not in a statistics related field.

Learn about JAVA

Nothing differently. If I never chose Acturial Science, I would never be able to learn many things as I do now.

I woupd minor in computer science.

Major in Accounting

Personally invest more into out-of-class projects.

I would focus more heavily on computation and coding since those skills seem to be very important in life after school

Find relevant internships

I feel like I'm too damn good to become a statistician that I don't need to go to grad school.

Take more programming classes

Take it more seriously.

Minor in computer science

Wish there was tracks²: like if you want to teach, have a teaching track, industry tracks, and a theory track

I might have worked more with my senior project advisor after the project was over because he offered. I might not have tried to double major with Kinesiology and spent some of that time taking more mathematics courses. I might have tried to learn python.

More data mining classes

I would have liked to get a minor in either data science or psychology.

Figure out how to and begin applying to jobs earlier. Try to make more time for gaining real analytical experience, seek out more applied opportunities.

Learn physics and computer science, which both attempt to model the real world, just as statistics does.

Nothing

More theoretical

Become more involved in projects, and take an internship.

internship

Nothing

Pass more actuarial exams.

I would have included CS classes on data base design and structures.

I wouldn't have bothered with the economics degree and just gotten a bachelor's in statistics.

I would do the same.

I would have taken more computer programming courses.

I would likely drop my political science major to a concentration and spend more time on statistics and methods. I would possibly attend an institution more focused on survey research.

Would have declared my statistics major earlier on.

Begin working in a research group earlier, dedicate more time to it (instead of classes and internships).

Take more math classes

Pursue research opportunities and develop relationships with professors so that I could've applied to PhD programs

Improve my coding abilities, e.g. learn SQL

I would have taken more in depth machine learning and AI classes

Taken more applied statistics courses

I think I might have majored either in math or computer science instead of statistics. I love statistics and believe that the statistics education provided me a good general sense of how to interpret statistical information, evaluate claims, etc., and I think those skills are incredibly valuable. But, I believe that a computer science major would have made me a more competitive candidate for many jobs right out of college, and a math major would have better prepared me for graduate school

More preparation in advanced mathematics since undergraduate statistics is generally geared towards preparation for industry and not for further graduate study

I wish I could have gotten more experience in hands-on analytics using popular tools. I learned to use R in my classes, but did not learn many of the most useful packages like ggplot and dplyr. I also had to teach myself SQL and Python's Pandas when I started my job.

Study a major similar to statistics, but not as theoretical. Some theory is necessary, but if you're not going into academia, I feel like it's not that useful

More computer science training

Focus more on statistical language and coding in order to apply learnings

Learn more of a variety of programs. Have more classes that have group work. I was too focused on grades and not actually learning. I was scared to fail every single test and it was not conducive to learning at all

No

Second Major in Economics instead of public policy, dual thesis in econ and statistics, not in public policy.

Try

Explored more seminars provided by statistics department

I would have declared my actuarial science minor earlier than I did in order to take some financial math classes.

Take more theory courses because all the foreign people in my program are much better at that

Tried harder to get an internship.

I would have done more to try to secure an internship.

Double major

More internships, different major

I would have taken more seriously my English/writing classes. I think that would have helped me in my current job preparing the presentations and documents that I have to prepare.

Focused too heavily on the programming aspect of the field and didn't provide a good foundation for understanding the theory behind why we program the way we do.

Minor in Econ.. more guidance from stats advisors in terms of class choices. For psychology, future plans were discussed with advisor

Do data science

I will focus more on the modern statistics field such as network science, machine learning, and AI.

I think I would have gotten a computer science degree with Statistics minor. That would have made me much more marketable for the types of jobs/companies/industries I'm interested in.

I think I would have double majored in public speaking

I would choose study graduate school too.

Obtain a minor

Nothing

I would have gotten an internship while attending school

Double major in math and statistics.

Pursue a different major

Get the statistics degree earlier, I went back to finish it.

Could have considered taking more Finance related courses to better inform the business decisions I am making now.

more application may be better

Get a minor in business/finance or completely change major

Take more mathematics courses.

I would choose a different major.

My undergrad was mainly in Biology

Maybe add a Finance or Economics minor - I would never change my major. Statistics is my first love, even though I don't currently use it in my job I believe the skills gained through studying it are invaluable.

I would add more computer science

Focus more on Statistics

Get a co major in analytics

Try harder to find an internship and change my major from mathematics and statistics to just statistics earlier

Nothing

Learn more about statistical learning, and how to properly use machine learning models

Absolutely nothing. I achieved the degree I wanted to obtain.

Internships and career counseling.

I'd get an internship

Take advantage of getting advice about careers

NA

nothing

I would have started taking programming classes earlier.

More practical experience

Supplemented with a second major in mathematics.

I would have taken more applied mathematics and computer science classes to give me a better background for working in deep learning.

Take more mathematics courses

I would get a degree in statistics for a more solid undergrad foundation, since most bios undergrad majors are too new and not useful.

Learn the concepts not for the grade, but rather for the knowledge. I'm definitely implementing this philosophy in graduate school - well, I have to to succeed in my academic career.

Pursue more computer science courses if available (Python, R, etc)

Look for more undergrad research and internship opportunities

I would focus more on application and less on the theory. The application is marketable, the theory is harder to sell to a business. My masters degree takes the statistics and applies it to business problems to help us better understand the context of a problem.

Talk more with faculty about certifications outside of school used in the market (SQL, SAS, Actuarial exams, R) Try to take as many computer science classes as possible

Take more programming/computer science courses.

Double Major

More project work

Computer Science major.

Maybe double majored in another field, if not computer science possibly economics. Just to have a basis to apply statistics to, because my statistics education was very theory based, not so much applied.

no

I would put a greater emphasis on computing, particularly in languages like SAS, R, Python and somewhat Java. These tools are used every day and are absolutely essential.

More technical writing and programming experience needed.

I would have taken more theory based mathematics course (numerical analysis, real analysis, etc.).

Different major

Try and get an internship before graduating.

I would have went to community college.

Not play a college sport and fully concentrate on my degree

I would have stayed my final year to pass an extra Actuarial Exam.

I would have gotten a degree in computer science in addition to my stats degree.

I would double major in Statistics and Economics, rather than Statistics and Political Science.

Not taken honors calc ii as a freshman

Learn database management and SQL.

learning new materials like data mining and multivariate statistical analysis

I would focus more on computer programming aspects of statistical analysis

Focus on education more than grades

The undergraduate education needs to focus more on python and building analytics using programming languages. Also, there needs to be more focus on visualization and real world applications of out education. It is important to improve on the complexity of data sets given to student to prepare them for the real world.

I would not have taken computational statistics with the [redacted] who taught it in Spring 2017 - it was a useless stressor. I would have sought out more business electives. I would have taken a class that teaches how to use excel (I think it's insane that this isn't part of the Statistics major).

Nothing

Spending more time on finding an internship in US.

Get my master's right away

I would have gone into the computing option rather than applied to have more software experience and hands on data application

More emphasis on programming

Take more programming courses

Start doing research with Statistic Professors, read more books and study harder

I would have switched my major very early on from actuarial science to just statistics. It's not attractive to have to plan on a graduate program when you are just starting a bachelors program.

I might have done computer science instead

I would get involved in plenty of internships, even if I didn't feel entirely sure about whether or not I wanted to work in the field. Also, I would favor losing sleep in order to finish assignments and study my extra sleep was probably worth much less than putting in additional effort.

The same

n/a

Learn more computer science and machine learning

Participate in more statistical research, take more courses in mathematics

go to a school that offered a BS in Statistics

nothing :)

More programming and emphasis on the results of data models and generating models where data isn't always easy to manage

Would have tried to learn more SAS and Stata, better understand social science applications of regression

Double major in Math and Computer Science

I would have taken a few more math theory classes (i.e. real analysis)

Ask more questions

I would have attended more office hours.

Take more programming classes and focus on data wrangling.

I wish I had had more opportunities to use my statistics in an internship designed for statistics students.

I would attend a school with a more reputable statistics department.

More math, more computer science

I would pursue a minor in a science field.

I would have taken graduate classes to prepare for graduate school as an undergrad.

Utilize resources more

useless

Volunteer or obtain an internship instead of attending summer school or while attending it.

I would take more programming based classes

Study harder

Procrastinate less

Take more statistics courses and interact with more professors.

Prepare more for coursework/exams, earn better grades, be more proactive in searching for opportunities, make more meaningful connections

Major in computer science or something else entirely. I liked my stats classes but realized I would not want to hold any of the positions my stats degree led me to.

Nothing.

Take more machine learning and applied statistics classes. Instead of studying up on techniques, also do more to apply the techniques I was learning about to a real-world problem.

Learn more about categorical data analysis, learn more about how to make graphs and charts.

More mathematics preparation before starting the statistics major

Not much I enjoyed it.

Perhaps minored in statistics instead of majoring in it.

Nothing

I would have minored in biology knowing that I wanted to pursue a graduate degree in Biostatistics.

none

Would have done stat minor, math major.

Go for actuary

I would have joined more clubs with a focus on the marketplace.

I would have majored in something else from the beginning.

Take more programming classes.

Almost all classes were given to teach SAS, with 2 classes agnostic of programming language, and 1 using R exclusively. More R would have been preferable. Also, no undergraduate classes were given in data science or clinical trials.

Find more committed professors when starting research projects.

Focus on learning more programming languages, such as SAS and R.

Take the major at a different university

I would have taken more classes in probability theory and real analysis, especially more functional analysis, and less classes in undergraduate statistics.

I would have worked harder on gaining skills in using statistical software (R, SAS, etc.)

I would have done more with data analytics - taken some python courses or something along those lines. Maybe majored in computer engineering rather than economics.

The department is wonderful (for the most part), but the major just does not require enough courses. Additionally, I wish I had a stronger foundation in the mathematical side of things.

Go to Berkeley.

I probably would have double majored if I knew what I wanted to do ahead of time

- More machine learning and data science. I learned basic statistics and mathematical concepts but the industry is also looking for skills in the emerging fields of data science and machine learning. - More real life data analysis projects to improve ski

No

see question 9

I wish I started my statistic degree sooner.

More communicating skills

I put a lot of focus on learning practical technical skills, but I wish I also put an emphasis on retaining more theoretical knowledge.

If I could go back to my undergrad education, I would take the courses for my own interest, not for the graduation requirement.

Study at another school.

learn more computer science

Take more computational statistics courses.

Instead of 2 years of theoretical statistics, and then 2 years of focusing on applied statistics, it would have been nice to bounce back and forth between the two.

I would spend sometime on individual research.

Try to get some research opportunities.

Go to a better school

I would have been an engineer rather than statistics major as I think it would have given me a competitive advantage in a larger portion of job spaces

Study math not stats

Take less statistics courses at one time or take more total classes

I would put more effort into discovering how to apply my degree.

Sustain a part-time job

Since I'm in the IT department I would've taken more classes related to IT.

I would not have changed anything for the most part.

Study harder. Discover statistics earlier and work on more projects

Take more math classes and programming classes

I would participate more in quantitative social sciences research since I want to go back to grad school in those fields one day.

Take more classes concerning data science

More stats work outside of class

Take more statistics instead of mathematics (I double majored but leaned very far toward math)

take more programming classes

I would choose computer science over statistics

Treating statistics as my true major and actuarial science as exam-prep classes.

I would have tried to find more paid internships so I had more experience working in research before I left college.

I would have done informatics

add more applied projects

Taken more finance or investment classes

Take more data visualization type coursework.

In retrospect, I assumed for most of my time as an undergraduate that my classes alone would effectively prepare me for a career. The skills and tools I use most day-to-day (Python, SQL, Machine learning knowledge) probably had some foundation in my undergraduate education, but the skills themselves were self-taught. If I could do it over again, I would spend a lot more time outside of class teaching myself these skills, even if it meant slightly lower grades. The skillsets emphasized by my stats major would not have been sufficient to get an interesting or fulfilling job straight out of undergrad, in my experience.

nothing

I would have tried taking more computer science courses to better understand the computational side of statistics. I would have also searched for more machine learning opportunities rather than business analytics opportunities on campus - however, at that time, I didn't know that I was interested in the machine learning field.

I would have done data science specifically, so I could do more applied statistics / data investigation.

I would have not transferred schools and studied math at one university, and tried to minor in computer science.

Do more hands on project would be more helpful.

Use a computer. No one does stats by hand. No one.

Focused more on my mental health rather than prioritizing other things

Taken a bit more CSCI/coding classes

Take more programming intensive courses

I should have learnt more programming skills such as C++ or python during undergraduate education.

Double major with engineering or comp sci instead of microbiology. I liked biology but the employment prospects are limited

I wouldn't have gone to community college the first 2 years.

Taking classes wisely.

I would focus more on computer science. I think a lot of the opportunities for statistics majors come in the form of data science opportunities, which require a lot of programming knowledge.

Take more computer science classes. Particularly Python or data systems

Nothing - I found both of my degrees extremely beneficial.

I would have completed another minor.

Pursue data science bachelors instead of statistics

Take more math courses/add math major

Learn more programming languages

Nothing!

Worry less about grades and more about learning material, teach myself more outside of class and depend less on classmates

I would not do anything differently

Gain more knowledge of other computing softwares like R and Python - I only had SAS education in undergrad

Major in math instead of biostatistics to get a better mathematical foundation for graduate level theory courses

If I had known that I wanted to pursue biostatistics and pre-med early on, I could have planned my schedule so as to work in a study abroad semester.

Go straight out of high school so I could work less and focus more on school and research.

I would have pursued a math major instead

Go to a different school

Take a different set of classes, focusing more on soft skills and real-world applications rather than theory

Internship

I wish I had changed my major to statistics earlier.

Focus more allied statistics and computer science and finance rather than theoretical.

I learned more about applied statistics through my political science major than my statistics major.

Nothing, it was great

My only change would be to add more CS coursework to my curriculum. Though I would not change majors to CS.

I would have done more extracurricular statistical activities such as research or an internship.

I would have started internship and get involved in undergraduate research earlier.

More Computer Science courses. In fact, make a level 2 vs class a requirement. Also more business classes. Stats is useless if it doesn't help a business

Get a different degree

Add a computer science major, or at least take more comp sci courses.

I would have taken more classes in computer programming languages (such as Python and SQL).

I would have focused on the application of my education to the workforce and found other ways to improve my resume. This would include learning SAS and SQL. I would also find classes, either at my school or elsewhere, that focused on applying statistical analysis to real business situations.

I would have doubled majored in Math/Stats and French.

Outside research (over a summer) and/or taken more computer science classes to be more familiar with programming syntax.

Maybe double major in CS instead of just minoring...but more for my personal benefit than because I need it for my job. I have a sufficient background as it is.

Conduct another research project.

Less emphasis on economic theory, more on applied econometrics and public policy.

Take more statistics and computer science classes

I wish that the mathematics department would have provided more opportunities either through classes or undergraduate research opportunities to learn more about statistical programming. In comparison this was not an issue at all with the economics department and I found the experience very helpful.

Take more classes that I found legitimately interesting

I would take more rigorous math classes and less applied statistics classes.

More hands on learning

I would have my second major in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering instead of Systems Engineering.

Learn more theoretical statistical methods

I wouldn't do anything differently with my undergraduate education. Winona State University has an amazing Statistics program and has prepared me to either enter the job market or pursue graduate education. I chose to obtain a Master's degree based solely on the premise that most employers require it and overlook the education I obtained at an undergraduate level at Winona State University.