

Question 1: *Write a brief self-introduction and describe what you hope to learn this summer.*

Hello! My name is Victoria Navarrete and I am a Statistics Specialist and Economics Major at the University of Toronto entering my fourth year. I grew up on the west coast in Vancouver, British Columbia. Throughout my undergrad, two of my favourite non-academic experiences have been serving as a Community Advisor at my college and being a team lead for a data science non-profit which is focused on making data science learning more accessible to youth. These experiences, combined with a quantitative courseload, has made me passionate about bridging the gap between the rigorous, number-driven side of statistics and the human, interpersonal side.

This summer, I'm excited to explore how we can bridge this gap in statistics education. STA496 specifically targets statistics education in the life sciences, which I believe is impactful given the volume of students and research output reliant on statistics in this field. I'm curious to look into what number-driven and statistical tools researchers might need, and how we can deliver this in a more engaging and absorbable way, potentially focusing on the human and interpersonal side of learning. I'm so honoured to be able to take this reading course and learn under Dr. White's instruction.

Question 2: *Describe how you anticipate this course will support your intellectual, personal, and/or professional goals.*

This course speaks directly to the bridging-the-gap interest I touched on above, between the technical side of statistics and the human side of actually understanding and using it. It's something I care about personally, and it shows up outside my coursework too. While this course centers on the life sciences, I believe a lot of the underlying takeaways extend beyond that field, to other areas of learning, and even to statistics students themselves who are navigating the same gap. I'm also interested in pursuing graduate studies, so I'm excited for the exposure to the independent, literature-based research that this course offers.