



PATRICE HICKS

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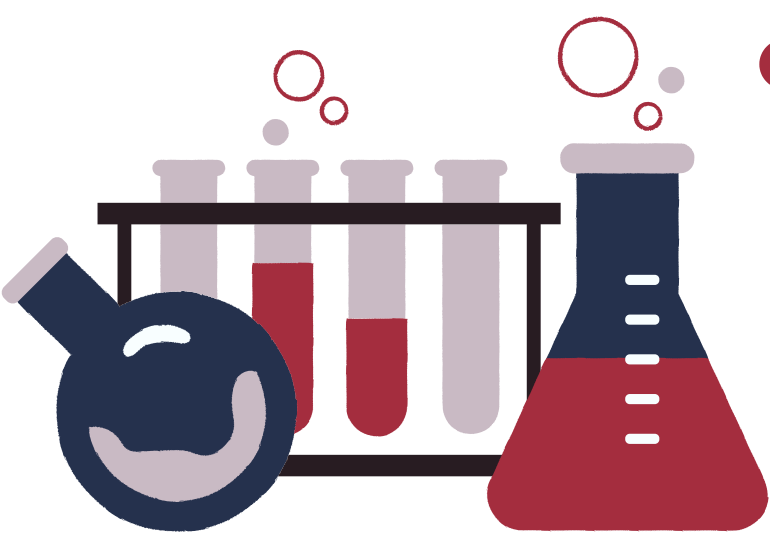
A HEAD START

I began college full-time at the age of 15 at Eastern Michigan University. I majored in chemistry and minored in biology which provided the foundational knowledge on conducting research in a lab. I also enjoyed taking classes such as sociology, psychology and medical ethics.



INTERNSHIPS

I originally planned to become an optometrist, so during my undergraduate studies, I completed an internship at an optometry office before being hired as an optician/ophthalmic technician. This internship allowed me to connect with communities, and helped me realize that I wanted to study population health.



PURSuing MULTIPLE DEGREES

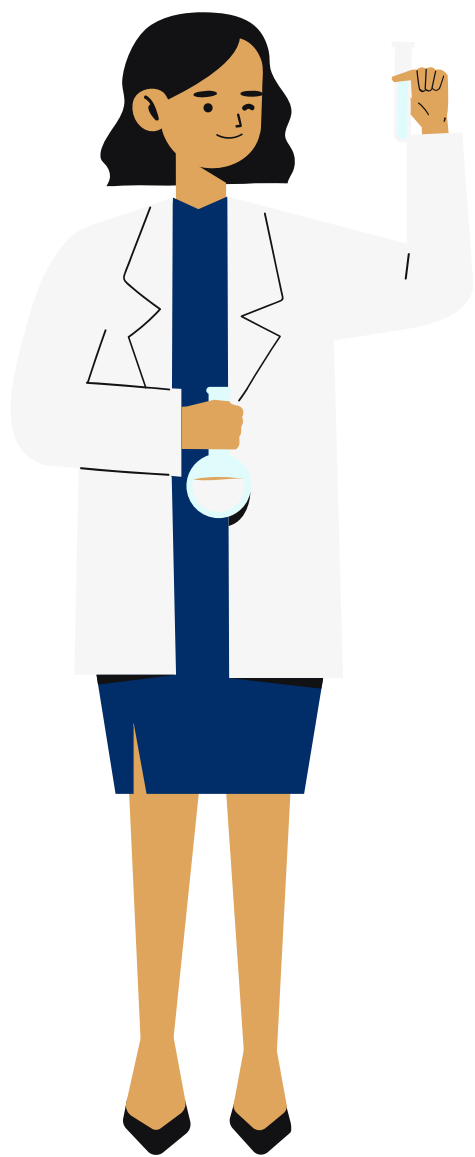
I decided to pursue a Masters in Public Health at Michigan State University, where I discovered my passion for health disparities as they pertained to eye health and vision care. My courses exposed me to topics around the social determinants of health.

I then decided to pursue a PhD in Population Health Science with an emphasis in Clinical and Translational Epidemiology at the University of Utah. I took courses that built upon my biostatistics skills and classes such as clinical and molecular epidemiology, social determinants & health equity, applied modern causal inference, analysis of secondary data, survey methods and grant writing.



EXTRACURRICULARS

During my doctoral studies, I also made sure to enhance my learning experience with numerous professional and educational opportunities, including receiving a T32 Vision Research Training Grant from the National Eye Institute, as well as participating in ARVO's Science Communication Training Fellowship.



THE WORK IS NEVER DONE

I am also working on completing my Higher Education Teaching Specialist Designation at the University of Utah. I hope to teach the next generation of those interested in similar fields, and am taking advantage of opportunities to enhance my teaching skills, like being a Teaching Assistant.

Moving forward, I hope to continue my research in addressing health disparities in eye and vision research and implementing corrective initiatives and policies.