

Student Profile



Brooke Staley
Class of 2016
Master of Public Health Candidate

My original interest in public health stemmed from witnessing inequalities that often negatively impacted minorities. By the time I got to college, I had lived in six different states and had witnessed stark disparities in health behavior and outcomes in the different communities. Originally, I wanted to address these inequalities by becoming a physician. But after graduating from Trinity College (Hartford, CT) in 2011, I was introduced to public health research and was inspired by the way research could be used to inform policies to address the health inequities I had witnessed growing up. Thus, I decided to pursue graduate education in public health.

I specifically chose the Morehouse School of Medicine Master of Public Health program because of its commitment to developing culturally competent public health leaders who are knowledgeable about and dedicated to making impactful changes through community engagement. And, in the spring of this year our new President and Dean, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice's announcement of the new vision for the school, to be a "leader in the creation and advancement of health equity globally", was yet another affirmation that I had chosen the right place to continue my education.

Morehouse School of Medicine, and more specifically the Master of Public Health program, has been a blessing to me. I have grown exponentially, academically, professionally and personally. In the last career development class of my first year in the MPH Program, our program director, Dr. Stephanie Miles-Richardson handed a piece of paper to us one by one. On that sheet of paper read the words: "It is the year 2030. I am..." and each of us in the room had to finish the sentence. I read the sheet confidently saying, "It is the year 2030. I am Brooke Staley MPH, M.D., Ph.D. I have finished my residency and was recently named on an advisory board for the NIH. I am also blessed, happy, and debt free." I was able to confidently share this vision because of the holistic and inspiring educational experience I have gained as a MPH student at Morehouse School of Medicine.

After graduating from the MSM MPH program in May 2016, I plan to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. in Epidemiology. I thoroughly enjoy public health research but I want to become a want to become a physician and scientist who is knowledgeable about individual and community health because interactions between the two have strong implications on individual and community outcomes. I believe knowledge is where the power for positive change lies, so I plan to use my academic and community knowledge to be an impactful leader in the movement toward health equity.