

Charles Ford III

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Ghana, 2017



“International service and learning are key components of being a member of the global community and capture the importance of helping one another.”

Charles interned abroad as a Gilman Scholar in summer 2017 with the nongovernmental organization Humanity and Community Development Projects (HCDP) in Ghana. Traveling to Ghana and working with HCDP Ghana enlightened him on how his community experiences similar health disparities. The Gilman Program influenced Charles' interests in health and medicine by introducing the significance of public health in a community. His focus shifted from secondary and tertiary forms of prevention to primary prevention in a clinical setting. After volunteering and interning at the local teaching hospital, Volta Regional Hospital, he found an area of health care where he can make a difference that combines his interest in infectious disease and passions for helping others. This experience led him to pursue a master's degree in public health (MPH).

After completing his MPH, Charles immediately began working as an epidemiologist for his local county health department in Florida as part of the COVID-19 response. Building on these experiences the past two years, he advanced his career in public health to focus on infection prevention, and he now works as an infection preventionist for an acute care hospital in Miami, FL.

Charles currently holds a Certification in Public Health (CPH) from the National Board of Public Health Examiners and is working to obtain his Certification in Infection Prevention (CIC) and Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and Psychology from Florida State University
- Earned a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida
- Infection Preventionist at HCA Florida Aventura Hospital

