

# Alumni Profile

## Allison Deal MS Class of 2007

Biostatistician, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

**MS, Biostatistics, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2007**  
**BS, Statistics and Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University, 2005**



**At the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, you are fighting the battle against cancer. How would you describe your workday?**

I collaborate with oncologists of various specialties and work on all aspects of their studies.

I contribute to study design and statistical plans for grants and protocols, perform statistical analyses, and co-author manuscripts.

One of my favorite parts of working at a smaller research center is that I am able to interact directly with the physicians and learn about the clinical background to our studies.

**What are some of your career highlights?**

I am proud to have published thirty-two peer-reviewed manuscripts in a five-year period. On most of these projects, I was the lead or only statistician. Moreover, I am glad to have been one of twenty-seven entry-level or junior faculty members selected for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Cancer Biostatistics Workshop, which took place in Sonoma, California in the summer of 2009.

**What made you attend UNC and study Biostatistics?**

I had a college summer internship at the National Center for Health Statistics. A senior colleague there had earned all his degrees at UNC. He was an expert in survey design, and I wanted to be as knowledgeable as him. I also found UNC's opportunities for applied training impressive and the faculty and staff friendly.

**Do you have any words of wisdom for current students?**

I highly encourage all students to work as a GRA in addition to taking classes. The combination of classroom learning and hands-on, practical experience has proved invaluable in the workplace.



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