



Kate Martino

High school: New Berlin Eisenhower High School

Hometown: New Berlin, Wis.

Majors: Data Analytics, Business Administration – Management, Business Administration – Management Information Systems

Minor: Accounting

Activities: Greek Council, Phi Rho sorority, CORE career mentor, HerCampus, Business Club, Mortar Board Senior National Honors Society

Internships: Data science and Analytics Program Management Intern at Northwestern Mutual; Data Analyst Intern at Northwestern Mutual; Business Analyst Intern at Amazon Web Services

Post-grad plans: I will be working for Amazon Web Services as a full-time business analyst at its HQ2 in Arlington, Va.

“Kate is an excellent student, respected among her peers and actively involved on campus; but where she stands out the most is in her willingness to continually challenge herself, and in her dedicated pursuit of opportunities to develop both her personal and professional capabilities. Her initiative and determination have served her well at Augustana and set the foundation for a fulfilling and impactful future.”

— Dr. Amanda Baugous, professor and management co-chair, business administration

Why Augustana?

I always knew I wanted to go to a smaller school and feel like a valued part of the campus community. When I came to visit, the people were all so welcoming. During my tour, it was evident that everyone on campus was well connected, and the positive energy was infectious.

Additionally, my freshmen year was the first year that Augustana offered data analytics as a major, which was something I was interested in pursuing. On top of all of that, the campus is beautiful!

Are you where you thought you'd be when you first came to campus?

Nope. Besides my major, a lot has changed. I knew what I wanted to major in coming to Augustana but could never have imagined all the amazing opportunities that Augustana provided me and the awesome connections I have been able to make!

I have grown so much since my freshmen year in my academics, leadership abilities and self-confidence. I am so proud of everything I have been able to accomplish over the last four years and am excited for what is next.

Who helped you get to where you are now?

My family and friends have been my biggest support system and cheerleaders. I cannot thank my parents enough for their unwavering support while I have pursued my academic and career goals. They have been beyond generous in sacrificing their time, energy and funds to help ensure I have the best college experience and that I am set up for success. I have them to thank for teaching me my core values of kindness and hard work.

I would also like to thank Dr. Thornblad for supporting me in my studies and career aspirations. Through taking his course called Managing Innovation over J-term, I was able to learn so much about how technology companies operate and why they are so successful. I have always had a passion for business and technology, and this class perfectly blended those interests.

Because of this class and some of the amazing Augie alumni guest speakers I was able to connect with, I had the courage to apply for my dream internship at Amazon and got it!

Peak experience?

My peak experience has been being a part of my sorority, Phi Rho. This group has been my home away from home, and I truly found my forever friends! They have encouraged me to follow my passions and try new things. I have loved getting to serve my community with this group, being challenged academically with this group, and becoming a leader in this organization. I am so grateful to have such a special group of people in my life here at Augustana and beyond.

MORE THAN I IMAGINED 2023

SENIORS REFLECT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LOOK AHEAD

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What surprised you?

I was surprised by how involved I was able to get so quickly on campus. I have loved getting to know people through the clubs and organizations I have been a part of. At Augie, you don't need to be an upperclassman to take on leadership roles and become engaged in something you are passionate about or interested in.

How did you use Augie Choice?

I used my Augie Choice to fund my summer internship with Amazon Web Services in Washington, D.C. While I was lucky enough to have a paid internship, I used my Augie Choice funds to pay for my living expenses such as rent, food and transportation.

What will you miss the most?

I will miss the people! I have met my absolute best friends here at Augustana and to think that we will not all live in the same city next year makes me emotional. The connections I have formed here will last a lifetime!

Advice for the Class of 2027?

Do the things that scare you and be nice to everyone! You are truly capable of more than you think. I would encourage everyone to start getting comfortable with the uncomfortable because that is where the fun and growth really happens.