

AMBAR A. MELENDEZ-PEREZ

(787)293-7601 | aamp@iastate.edu | melendez.ambar@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Iowa State University

Current

Ph.D., Forestry

Thesis: *“Conscious Greening: Urban Green Spaces and Environmental Equity in Ever-Changing Anthromes in the Central US”*

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus

2022

Master of Public Health, Epidemiology

Thesis: *“Prevalence of symptoms of anxiety, depression, and levels of stress among health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic in Puerto Rico.”*

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude, Student Leadership Award*

University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

2020

Bachelor of Science, Microbiology

Minors: *Project Management; Women and Gender Studies*

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude*

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Statistical Analyses
(4 courses)

Environmental Health

Advanced Decision-Making in
Natural Resource Allocation

Ecosystem Management

Forest Stand Dynamics

America’s Public Lands

Epidemiology of Mental
Illness

Research Methods for Social
Sciences (Survey Oriented)

Research Methods for Public
Health

WORK EXPERIENCE: RESEARCH

Graduate Research Assistant: Iowa State University

Fall 2021 -
Present

Worked on developing a novel research topic within Urban Forestry and a concrete plan to achieve said research. Led designed projects with support from faculty Advisor Dr. Jan Thompson and other committee members. At a minimum, four individual research projects should emerge from these efforts.

Graduate Research Assistant: UPR- Medical Sciences Campus

Fall 2021 –
Spring 2021

Worked on data entry and processing of records for COVID-19 case tracking. Research work included independent work and self-paced accountability. Additionally, miscellaneous translation work for abstracts and minor editing for publications was required.

Hurricane Maria Death Toll Research

Spring 2021

Coordinated phone interviews for dozens of contact persons on death certificates on dates close to the atmospheric event. Was responsible for leading psychologically strenuous phone interviews and accomplishing the data input from said interviews.

NSF REU: Tarleton State University

Summer 2019

Worked with arthropod pitfall traps to make a comparative analysis of the differential effects of grazing on arthropod diversity. Was responsible for developing a methodology in a new research area. Oversaw preparation, collection, and analysis of samples during the summer for this long-term project.

WORK EXPERIENCE: TEACHING

Co-Instructor: NREM 496B (Yellowstone Experience)

Spring 2022;
2023

Duties included collaborating with faculty co-instructor to coordinate trips from an educational standpoint as well as coordinate safety and accommodations for about 16 students. Additionally in charge of leading student discussions on current science for the area before the trip and guiding students towards scientific and individual questions that look further than established knowledge.

Teaching Assistant: NREM 301 (Forest Ecology)

Fall 2022

Duties included leading laboratories and specific lessons when the instructor was unavailable. In addition, oversaw some grading work and attended to students' difficulties with the course to ensure student success.

WORK EXPERIENCE: OTHER

SMART Steps Academic Coach, ISU College of Ag. and Life Sciences

Fall 2022 - Present

Responsible for coordinating resource allocation and support for 10-12 students at risk of dismissal by the university. Weekly individual meetings are conducted where students are held accountable, heard, and supported in the best way possible. Also responsible for reporting students' status to university administration and connecting students in need and university resources.

Sample Preparator, UPRM Biology Department Herbarium

Spring 2019

Accountable with a group of other employees in receiving plant species from around the world and then preparing these into herbarium specimens and sending them to the Smithsonian Museum.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R Studio	Qualtrics	EpilInfo
Microsoft Office	Google Suite	STATA
Project Management	QuickBooks	Spanish and English Proficient

VOLUNTEER WORK

Site Leader, ISU Alternative Breaks

Spring 2023

Vice-President, NREM Graduate Student Association

Summer 2022 - Present

President, Black Graduate Student Association	Fall 2022 - Present
Member, NREM Graduate DEI Committee	Fall 2021 - Present
Volunteer, ISU For You	April 2022
President, Student Government for the School of Public Health – RCM (EGSP)	Fall 2020 – Summer 2021
Public Health Faculty Graduate Student Representative	Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

- NREM Graduate Student Organization
- Black Graduate Student Organization
- Society of American Foresters
- National Biological Honor Society

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Excellence in Student Leadership	May 2021
Magna Cum Laude (MPH)	May 2021
Magna Cum Laude (B.S.)	June 2020
1st place Poster Presentation NSF REU	August 2019
UPR General Endowment Fund Grant	April 2019
Beta Spirit for outstanding dedication to the National Biological Honor Society	April 2019
Frank G. Brooks for Excellence in Student Research	March 2019

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

“Arthropod Diversity and Abundance in Grazing Experiment at Timberlake Biological Field Station” August 1st, 2019

Annual Tarleton REU Research Symposium

“Protist addition as a method to increase plant fitness and plant functionality in plants grown with agroecological practices” May 3rd, 2019

66th Annual National Biological Honor Society Regional Conference

PUBLICATIONS

Melendez, A. (2018). Sobre el té y mis mujeres: Curación folclórica entre mujeres. Miradero (Publication of the National Folklore Research Institute)