

Ugo Oyefia

University of Kansas
Mathematics and Sociology
Lawrence, Kansas

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Education

University of Kansas	Expected 2028
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics	
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology	

PAA 2027 Working Papers

1. Oyefia, Ugo. 2026. *Pension Access and Black Men's Mental Health: Evidence from South Africa's 2008 - 2010 Policy Reform*.
Uses longitudinal survey data and regression discontinuity models to study pension access and health among older Black African men. Estimates show increased pension receipt without consistent improvements in health. These comparisons do not identify the reform's overall effect on health.
2. Myroniuk, Tyler W., and Ugo Oyefia. 2026. *Humans are Not Fish: Moving Away from the Salmon Bias Hypothesis*.
Examines the use of the salmon bias hypothesis in migration research through a literature review organized by discipline and geographic setting. The paper separates criticism of the salmon analogy from empirical questions about return migration and the measurement of mortality.

Research Experience

University of Kansas	Feb. 2026 - Present
<i>Undergraduate Research Assistant; mentor: Tyler W. Myroniuk</i>	<i>Lawrence, KS</i>
Merge household and individual records from the National Income Dynamics Study in Stata. Harmonize variables and construct measures of pension receipt, depressive symptoms, and self-rated health. Run regression discontinuity and instrumental - variable models; check how estimates change with the age window and outcome definition. Review research on social protection and migration, and prepare tables and manuscript drafts with faculty feedback.	

University of Kansas	Aug. 2025 - Feb. 2026
<i>Research Assistant, Jen Johnson Lab</i>	<i>Lawrence, KS</i>
Reviewed studies that use satellite data to monitor photosynthesis, vegetation health, and environmental stress. Wrote research notes summarizing the findings for the lab.	

Applied Research and Policy Experience

Kansas Health Institute

June 2026 - Present

Research Intern

Topeka, KS

Compare school-based Medicaid programs in 14 states, including how they are administered and what support they offer providers. Document program implementation requirements. Contribute a six-state comparison of payment options and rural and community training sites to a memo on Medicaid graduate medical education funding. Code responses to 13 open-ended survey questions about AI in public health; summarize concerns about privacy, staff training, and policy needs.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Aug. 2026 - Present

Rural Health Transformation Program Intern

Topeka, KS

Track responses to 69 CMS implementation questions, with source references and unresolved issues recorded for follow-up. Check locations, funding amounts, and project descriptions for 46 rural-health awards on a public impact map. Review consultants' work for supporting evidence and whether KDHE can use their recommendations. Record questions for consultants and track program decisions and deadlines.

Kansas Legislature

Jan. - Mar. 2026

Legislative Intern, Office of the Minority Leader

Topeka, KS

Tracked legislation and amendments, reviewed testimony, and followed committee hearings. Used bill text, fiscal notes, and agency reports to prepare policy briefs and meeting materials.

Honors and Research Support

McNair Scholar, University of Kansas, 2026.

Global Scholar, University of Kansas, 2026. One of 15 students selected.

Lacy Internship Assistance Program, Dole Institute of Politics, Spring 2026.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Honor Roll, University of Kansas, Fall 2025 - Present.

Mentored Scholar, University of Kansas, \$2,000.

Methods Training

ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan

Summer 2026

Participant and scholarship recipient. Attended courses in time series and panel data, machine learning for social science, regression analysis, and Bayesian modeling. Additional instruction covered Python, R, computing, and mathematics.

Skills and Certifications

Software: Stata, R, Python, Excel.

CITI: Social & Behavioral Research; Health Information Privacy and Security. Completed March 2026.

Languages: English; Nigerian Pidgin (native/bilingual); Igbo (full professional proficiency).