



Data Science Ready

Syllabus

Data Science Ready makes the fundamental topics in data science approachable and relevant by using real-world examples and prompts learners to think critically about applying these new understandings to their own workplace. Get an overview of data science with a nearly code- and math-free introduction to prediction, causality, visualization, data wrangling, privacy, and ethics.

Modules	Case Studies	Takeaways	Key Exercises
Module 1 Data 101	Flu Detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why data collection is important • Identify factors that may affect data quality • Recognize that not all data is numerical • Explain how the organization of data can affect the information you are able to extract from it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List sources of data • Discuss what can be done with data • Categorize data by various factors • Determine whether data is high-quality or not
Module 2 Predictions	Predicting Sepsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic structure of a predictive algorithm • Identify where human decisions shape predictive systems • Evaluate the success of a predictive system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how weather forecasts work • Use data to create a prediction • Sort types of training data • Simulate a predictive system
Module 3 Casuality	The Google Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why it is important to establish causal relationships • Identify barriers to establishing causal relationships in a variety of settings • Identify why randomization can help establish a causal relationship but also create other problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify relationships based on correlation or causation • Examine the relationship between variables • Identify potential common causes for correlated events
Module 4 Data Governance and Privacy	Privacy and Facial Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why data privacy is important • Describe what can constitute a violation of privacy • Critique existing privacy policies • Create a set of ethical tenets to guide data work at their own organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate data privacy guidelines • Discuss the risks of data re-identification • Evaluate existing data privacy policies for ethics



Modules	Case Studies	Takeaways	Key Exercises
Module 5 Beyond the Spreadsheet	Burning Glass and Text Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sources of non-numerical data • Explain why it would be useful to use non-numerical data • Describe the differences in approach for supervised and unsupervised learning • Identify use cases for neural networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a sentiment analysis • Determine what types of data an algorithm cannot read • Examine how computers intake visual and audio data • Experiment with facial recognition
Module 6 Data Science Ecosystems	Harvard Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of data transformation and wrangling • List the common technologies used within data science ecosystems • Describe the connection between data science tasks, software tools, and hardware tools • Identify potential sources of bottlenecks in the data science process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and order the lifecycle of data • Define what “the cloud” is • Estimate the size of various data streams
Module 7 The Road Ahead	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize a problem that an algorithm might be able to solve • Recognize the challenges created by using data science tools in ways outside their intended use • Identify steps within the data science process that need auditing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose types of data to ingest into an algorithm • Evaluate the risks of solely using an algorithm to make decisions • Discuss how algorithms can reinforce biases • Create a set of guidelines to evaluate projects

Learning requirements: In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all 7 modules by stated deadlines.