

Final Project Report – Becoming a Data Analyst/Engineer
CSPB 3112
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Introduction:

My project was focused on upskilling to make myself a better candidate for business analyst and data analyst positions. This goal drove my plan and learning throughout the semester.

Background:

I was between jobs at the start of the semester (and am currently still looking for a long-term role but have started contract work). I decided to focus on upskilling in the data space. I created a learning path on LinkedIn Learning and focused the path on becoming a data analyst. The main topics of the pathway were business intelligence, R, data analysis, tableau, statistics, predictive analytics, data visualization, and data-driven decision making.

Goals and Results:

Goal 1: Complete the 19 courses in the LinkedIn Learning pathway. The pathway originally included 34 hours of video and additional section quizzes.

Result: Achieved

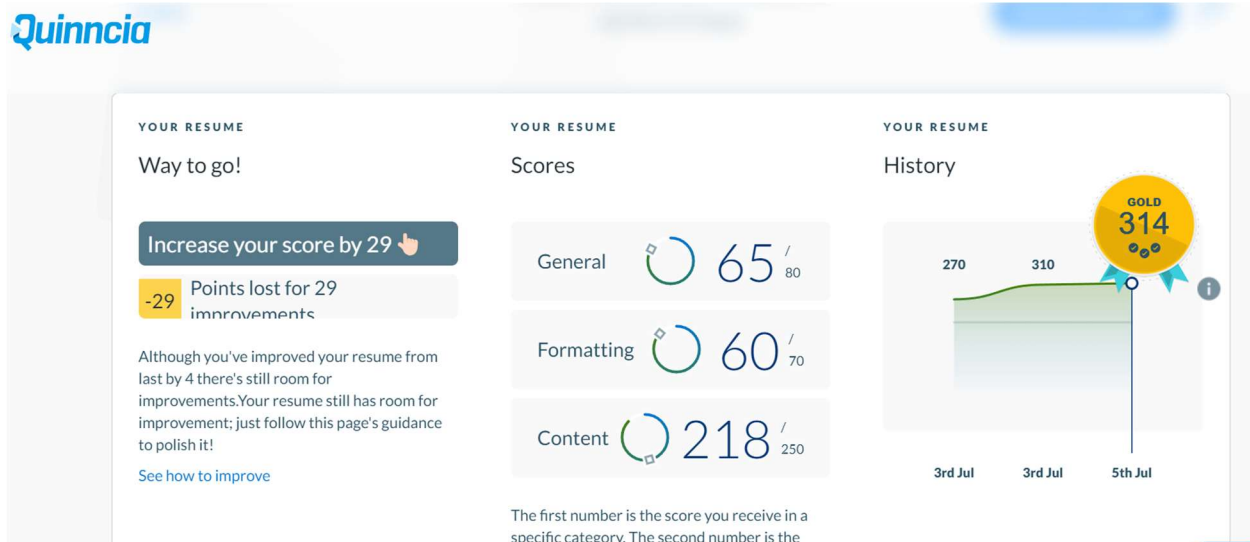
Detail: The section quizzes added time to the completion of each course. The R programming language section comprised of 3 courses and 8.5 hours of video. These videos had interactive lessons and gave me the opportunity to download R and RStudio. I took my time with these lessons and the quizzes for this section. All of this resulted in spending double the video hours, roughly 17-18 hours total to complete this section.

The R section took enough time that it made completing the full pathway impossible within the intended scope of this class. I was able to complete the business intelligence and statistics sections, as well as individual videos in the data analysis and predictive analytics sections. Overall I still consider this goal achieved from an upskilling perspective.

Goal 2: Watch videos on topics like job searching, technical interviews, and using LinkedIn effectively.

Result: Achieved

Detail: I watched a video on using LinkedIn effectively for job searching. The lifelong learning activities we completed for this course helped me meet this goal. I met with Brian Hand from the UC Engineering career services department. The meeting covered the topics of job searching and resume design. Given the number of job boards out there and the tough job market Brian helped give me a strategy of websites to focus on, these websites include BuiltIn, LinkedIn, Dice, and Teamwork Online. We also discussed my resume and things to add/edit. I completed these changes and sent them to Brian to review. I also utilized the Quinncia website to edit my resume. I completed 3 rounds of reviews during the learning resources week. Surprisingly, the AI scanner did not pick up the bullet points that I had in my original resume. The '-' that I had in the resume was not ATS friendly. Microsoft Word recognized the '-' as a bullet point and formatted them accordingly but the ATS did not pick it up. This was a simple fix as I switched the '-' out for the standard circle bullet point. I plan to revisit the resume editing process soon and add the data contracting work I started over the summer.



Discussion/Conclusion:

Overall, the concepts I learned over the semester gave me a great start in learning about the data analyst role and the data space in general. I also started as a Data Contractor for USADA towards the end of the semester. This hands-on experience has helped me put some of the skills I learned into practice and has given me a firsthand look at programs like Power BI and how data pipelines are set up within a production environment. I work with the IT department in this role and have had the chance to learn directly from the principal data engineer. This experience has expanded my understanding of the data space and has led me to consider and pursue junior data engineering roles alongside data analyst or business analyst roles.

Project Link:

Personal website: <https://dleenheer.github.io/>