

# Karis Saplys

## Data Scientist

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14 DECEMBER 2022

### Dr. Erin Martin

William Jewell College  
Department Head of Data Science  
500 College Hill  
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Dear Dr. Martin,

Thank you so much for a wonderful semester, full of learning, exploration, and personal development. As a course, DTS-350 has been the most difficult and demanding course that I have taken not only within the umbrella of the data science department, but in college as a whole. It pushed me to learn and perfect new coding techniques, while also training myself to develop new habits that will set me up for success in the workplace post-graduation.

Using the language R and specifically the program RStudio, our primary course goal was to learn how to successfully convert raw data into profound, clean, and meaningful visualizations. Personally, I believe I successfully attained this goal, while also developing several critical skills in the process. These include the ability to convert data from various formats to a desirable format for analysis, the intuition to clean, transform, and merge data or specific variables, and finally what effective displays of the data look like when it comes to communication. I believe that any visualization that I am able to create from code today is not only clean and presentable, but also tells a story.

On a very specific level, my mastery of R as a language, as well as many of its accompanying packages and libraries, is the most profound thing I will take away from this course. My ability to code both effectively and efficiently allows me to handle tasks that I would otherwise seem intimidating or downright impossible before. This was most pronounced on our final Coding Challenge of the semester, where I was forced to combine my knowledge of tidying data with my experience using specific packages for in-depth analysis. This task required me to join and merge data, use the tidyquant package, make use of interactive tables, deal in date and time series variables, among other things.

I would like to close this letter with a grade request. This course was evaluated on a high standard pass/fail basis, that took into account the demands of completing every assigned task, case study, and project thoroughly and on-time. I completed all of my assigned tasks on time for the semester, with only 1 being late. Moreover, I attended the LinkedIn seminar for extra credit. The same was true of all of my case studies for the semester. My final project met and exceeded expectations, and my performance on coding challenges throughout the semester was phenomenal. As such, I believe I would be selling myself short if I did not request an "A" in this course. Please take everything into consideration, and thank you so much for a wonderful semester!

Sincerely,

Karis Saplys

