Daniel Naylor

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Statistics   2025–Present
University of California, Irvine   Irvine, CA

BSc in Mathematics, Minor in Statistical Science   2021–2025
University of California, Santa Barbara (College of Creative Studies)   Santa Barbara, CA
Honors: Highest Honors

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Applied Probability & Statistics, UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA
Summer Undergraduate Researcher   2024
– Worked alongside Dr. Alexander Franks in developing alternate metrics to evaluate skill of basketball players.
– Developed a mathematical framework motivated from causal inference, utilizing doubly robust estimators and random forests.
– Wrangled raw NBA data and deployed hundreds of statistical models to produce our metrics.

Department of Mathematics, UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA
Directed Reading Program Participant   2022–2023
– Researched Hopfield and Ising models alongside a peer, mentored by graduate student William Sheppard.
– Dived into theoretical underpinnings of machine learning, as well as use-cases and design philosophy of early models.
– Implemented trainable models on real-world data. We presented our findings and results in a poster session.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Science UCSB   Santa Barbara, CA
Internal Vice President   2024–2025
– Oversaw planning of the club's first hackathon, DataOrbit 2025, by organizing themes, judging criteria, office hours, and workshop material for approximately 200 attendees, resulting in 12 prepared project presentations from groups of beginners.
– Spearheaded improvement of workshop material among technical officers, receiving attendance of 20–60 members per workshop. Personally hosted workshops on Regression, Statistical Modeling, and Bayesian Statistics.
– Mentored 61 project groups alongside 4 colleagues, totaling 288 members, via brief weekly meetings and quarterly milestones in preparation for a company-sponsored showcase, ultimately resulting in 8 finalist presentations and 15 participating groups.
Director of Technical Development   2023–2024
– Overhauled system of project accountability and skill acquisition with regular meetings and workshops, ultimately improving participation from 11 to 18 participating groups in our company-sponsored project showcase.
– Curated workshops in Python, NumPy, Data Preprocessing, and Basic Data Analysis, improving attendance from <5 to 10–30.

Campus Learning Assistance Services, UC Santa Barbara   Santa Barbara, CA
Mathematics Tutor   2023–2025
– Led discussion sections in linear algebra and multivariable calculus for struggling students by reviewing material and connecting to familiar concepts, ensuring that all my students earned a minimum grade of B.
– Communicated math topics to hundreds of students, via walk-in tutoring, across all lower division subjects by breaking down concepts into smaller explanations, guaranteeing a newfound understanding in aid of their learning.

The Learning Center, College of the Canyons   Santa Clarita, CA
Mathematics Tutor   2022

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

"The Cause in Basketball Skill", Research & Creative Activities Conference, UC Santa Barbara, California, 2024

"Hopfield Models and Modern Implementations", Directed Reading Program, UC Santa Barbara, California, 2023

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, College of Creative Studies   2024

Vigil Honor   2022

Eagle Scout   2020

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, R, LaTeX, Stan, JavaScript

Scientific Computing: NumPy, SciPy, scikit-learn, PyMC, shinystan, PyTorch

Data & Visualization: pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, ggplot, dplyr, tidyverse