

## **Self-Evaluation Letter**

Dear Professor Bradford,

As I reflect on my journey through the course, I am filled with a sense of improvement in statistical modeling. My goals at the beginning of this semester were ambitious, and I am convinced that I have made significant progress toward achieving them. My proficiency in R has improved. Throughout the semester, I dedicatedly completed more than 90% of the tutorials, which solidified my understanding of statistical modeling and improved my skills with the R programming tool. Apart from the tutorials, I successfully used R to build generalized linear models, analyzing the population growth of cities globally. I conducted model selection and understood the output of the models by using various evaluation metrics. Regarding GitHub, I have realized it is an invaluable tool for managing project versions and collaborating with my peers. However, I believe I still need to continue using it to use it effectively.

I have gained a deep understanding of key statistical concepts. By dedicating time throughout the semester to lectures, reading, and additional resources, especially the videos and tutorials, I have developed a robust foundation in inference, maximum likelihood estimation, and generalized models. My ability to select appropriate models for specific tasks and communicate results to stakeholders has improved, which I have realized is easier with the use of graphs, as evidenced by the projects I experimented on.

Actively engaging in teamwork and collaboration has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this course. Although not extensively, I shared my skills and learned from my colleagues and professor, especially when my colleagues asked questions in class. This interaction has not only enhanced my learning but also expanded my professional network, providing me with valuable connections for future endeavors.

My participation in the course community was initially slow as I was trying to catch up with the course material. This limited my ability to participate actively on the Teams platform, but I maintained constant contact with one of my classmates. We shared ideas and helped each other, which greatly contributed to my learning. The fully online format was a new experience, and I enjoyed the course tutorials, although they slowed my participation as I focused on completing the material thoroughly before sharing insights with my classmates.

Balancing work and studies has been challenging, but it has significantly improved my time management skills. I encountered unexpected difficulties with some statistical concepts, but perseverance and dedication helped me overcome these challenges. The tutorials, introduction to statistical learning, and peers have been invaluable, providing me with different perspectives and insights. Although I aimed to complete six hours of study per week, I managed to maintain this pace for only three weeks. Nevertheless, I tracked my progress by completing the tutorials, which was a significant achievement for me.

Looking ahead, I aim to continue building on the foundations established during this course. I plan to apply the knowledge and skills gained to real-world data science projects, further enhancing my expertise. I am also committed to staying engaged with

the professional network I have built, seeking opportunities for collaboration and continuous learning.

In conclusion, this semester has been a period of significant growth and achievement. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and develop under your guidance, Professor Bradford. The skills and knowledge acquired will undoubtedly propel me forward in my career as a data scientist.

Thank you for your support and mentorship.

Sincerely,

Eric Opoku