

I participated in category 2 and met with a Data Scientist. I connected with Rollie Goodman through LinkedIn and had an informational interview with her. She was a data scientist at Workiva, a software company that helps businesses organize their teams, finances, and reporting systems.

I found it especially interesting that much of her work focuses on automating systems for clients, including reporting tools and team management platforms. In my own company, we use similar systems, but it was insightful to hear about them from the perspective of someone whose job revolves around analyzing and improving data-driven processes. Rollie also mentioned that a large part of her role involves data analysis to optimize the software systems Workiva provides to clients. She also noted that she spends most of her day in meetings, which is something I can definitely relate to!

In terms of connection to our class, Rollie uses data to build algorithms that automatically generate reports and dashboards. We approach this on a simpler level in class by extracting data from files, creating visualizations, and drawing conclusions. She also emphasized the importance of recognizing good versus bad data and cleaning data before using it, which we've practiced through our data wrangling exercises.