

Writing Assignment: “hello friend”



My name is Kevin Black and I’m currently a senior student attending Washington State University Vancouver. I chose WSUV freshly out of Clark College as it was in my immediate area and I could drive to school from my home. Also, this university has relatively cheap in-state tuition compared to other universities many hours away. On a side note, the picture to the left best represents me as I love nature and hiking in my spare time!

I started out as a CS major, but switched to data analytics during my junior year because I wasn’t enjoying the workload or my potential future in CS. I’m thoroughly enjoying every minute of data analytics so I have no regrets regarding changing majors! I’m also minoring in mathematics, something I’ve consistently been on track with since I was originally a CS major. Specifically, I’m on the actuarial track of data analytics as I’m not too interested in the business side of things and would just like to do mathematics and data analysis all day long. I will graduate from WSUV by the end of the Fall 2021 semester.

I’m enrolled in this statistics course as it is a prerequisite for completing the data analytics program here at WSUV. I’m not too familiar with the idea of multivariate statistics, so I would say that one of my goals for the class are to take advantage of the apprenticeship structure of the class as I find that kind of layout to be pretty interesting and potentially beneficial to my style of learning. Another goal of mine in this course would be to further my understanding of applying multivariate statistical concepts in real-world scenarios to optimize/better understand solutions to a problem.

Whether it comes to theoretical or concrete mathematics, I’ve always had an affinity of working with numbers and working out problems logically, leading me to a field centered around computers and mathematics. As a result of my educational and personal endeavors, my strengths in mathematics and statistics would be finance-related problems and probabilities, respectively. While I do appreciate mathematics and statistics, I find that my strengths primarily lie within the territory of data analytics, where I have lots of fun compiling and organizing data (data collection and cleansing), discerning patterns in datasets and creating visualizations (exploratory data analysis), and simply playing with data to determine any trends or correlations (regression and clustering).

To supplement data analysis, I also firmly believe I am proficient in Microsoft Excel, R, Python, MySQL, GitHub, Jupyter Notebook, and LaTeX, amongst other technical tools used within each of the mentioned softwares. With my developing skillset, my ideal career path would be any of the following, ordered somewhat by desirability: data analytics consultant, risk analyst, pricing

and underwriting analyst, financial analyst, quantitative analyst, data engineer, operations analyst, data scientist, database administrator, just to name a few! Over time this will obviously be narrowed down to just a few select paths, with more specialization in whatever particular path I begin to lean more towards.

As part of my induction into career searching for this assignment, I created a table that describes my ideal career preferences and the job demand for said preferences in my preferred vicinity (PDX Metro area). Although I wouldn't object to the idea of moving to another city anywhere in the U.S. to continue my life and career, I would ideally like to stay in the northwest U.S. The data for this table was collected from Indeed.com based on my career preferences and provided keywords by the instructor, which can be found below. Based on the compiled data, my expectations of the job demand for my area versus my preferences are pretty much in line with one another. Creating this table gave me additional insight into what kinds of careers I would expect to be applying for in my area if I want a good chance of landing a one of the particular types of demanded job (all of which I like as well!), which looks promising to me as long as I can keep expanding my skillset to apply myself to these various jobs.

RANK	JOB DEMAND	MY PREFERENCES
1	Data Scientist	Data Analyst
2	Data Analyst	Statistical Modeling
3	Business Analytics	Data Engineer
4	Data Visualization	R Developer
5	Actuarial Analyst	Insurance Analyst