Abigail Glisson

she/her – Athens, Georgia, USA
arnglisson@gmail.com
770-616-9886
linkedin.com/in/abigailglisson
github.com/aglisson6

Hello Shopify Early Talent Team:

I am writing to express my interest in and explain why I am a great fit for the Data Science Intern program starting Fall 2022. I am changing careers after 5 years of teaching science in public high schools, so you may be wondering how I can contribute at Shopify. My interest in data-driven performance has taken me from a degree in engineering to teaching physics and chemistry; it just took me a few years to realize that the best fit for my innate strengths and lived experience is a career in data science.

There are myriad skills required to teach effectively, many of which may not be obvious from a resume but that are imminently applicable to being a valuable team member in the tech industry. Specifically, as a teacher and former project manager, I have refined my skills at:

> **Working effectively with diverse teams of colleagues and groups of students:** Although instructional time focused on learning assigned content, students are people first. I approached my students with empathy and understanding, which forged strong relationships and led to better outcomes by increasing student engagement. John C. Maxwell said, *"Students [People] don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."*

> **Continuously improving processes to meet the needs of students or goals of the team:** The biggest challenge of teaching through the pandemic was that the logistics of teaching changed drastically in a short amount of time. I devoted myself to developing and refining the most effective digital infrastructure that I could and sharing that with colleagues so students could easily navigate their digital school environment.

> **Adapting quickly to changing needs and environments, using all available information to problem solve creatively in a timely manner:** The best-developed lesson plans must still be adaptable. You could never predict when students would take longer than anticipated to understand a topic or a fire drill would suck up class time and distract for the rest of the period. I learned to remain flexible with my plans, knowing that forging ahead with a rigid lesson plan even when circumstances shifted was a waste of valuable time and an exercise in futility. Embracing change is the only sensible way forward.

Although an engineer-turned-teacher-turned-data-scientist may not be an obvious hiring choice, I can assure you that those experiences have allowed me to prove my work ethic and tenacity, especially when working in a company culture that values its Shopifolk so highly. I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you further about how I can be an asset to Shopify's mission of making commerce better for everyone.

Sincerely,

Abigail Glisson