Alexander Holt

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PROFILE

I'm naturally curious and love to think creatively to solve problems. I'm open-minded—I want to hear any and every idea—and like working with others to ask the right questions and meticulously pursue the answer. I'm passionate about communicating those answers in a clear and concise way.

I have written for The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Vox, and others, and have been quoted in outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and PBS NewsHour.

SKILLS

Languages/Packages: Scientific Python (pandas, NumPy, SciPy, matplotlib, scikit-learn), SQL, stats models, Beautiful Soup, Selenium, Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK), TensorFlow, Seaborn, Tableau, Git

Predictive Modeling: Supervised and unsupervised learning. Implementation of regression and classification, including linear/logistic regression, K-nearest neighbors, random forest, bagging, boosting, support vector machines, neural networks, and natural language processing.

EXPERIENCE

Data Science Immersive Student, General Assembly, 2017
- Labs and projects focus on using python to implement supervised and unsupervised learning methods, model refinement, and model testing. Project assignments focus on using incomplete datasets and creating a model to answer a question for a client.
- Scraped over 10,000 observations from reddit.com and used Natural Language Processing and random forests to determine what characteristics help posts succeed on Reddit.
- Predicted total liquor revenue in the state of Iowa using publicly available dataset and linear regression model with LASSO regularization.
- Presentation of findings included visualizations using Seaborn and Tableau.

Policy Analyst, New America — 2013-2017
- Managed five-person higher education finance team. Assigned articles and reports, reviewed research methodology, and edited the writing of team members.
- Wrote or co-wrote 13 white papers and book chapters using quantitative and qualitative analyses to determine the effects of various policy changes on the federal budget, private companies, higher education institutions, and borrower behavior.
- Wrote over 30 op-eds and articles, was quoted over 50 times by news media, spoke on five different panels for congressional staff, and presented at five conferences attended by members of the higher education industry, academics, and policymakers.

Program Associate, New America — 2012-2013

Research Associate, New America — 2012
- Created a financial calculator to model borrower outcomes from newly created federal repayment policy. Co-wrote paper with recommendations that were eventually implemented by the Obama administration to reform the program.
- Created new database of pre-k enrollment and funding after cleaning data collected from 50 states.
- Assisted in grant writing, coordinated events, and performed various administrative duties.

EDUCATION

General Assembly. Data Science Immersive Student, 2017.

The George Washington University. Bachelor of Arts in Political Communication, 2011. Special Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude.*