

Q1. First, think about your priorities in life. What kind of salary do you want to make after graduation? Do you mind getting more schooling? What kind of work-life balance are you looking for? Where do you want to work, geographically? You don't have to write this down here, just think about it.

1. *Go to the Occupational Outlook Handbook at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>. Look up "Data Scientist." Read about the job and start collecting data about it from the job profile (e.g. salary, education required, work setting). Find 7-10 other jobs that appeal to you, and collect the same data as you did for Data Scientist. Put it all in a spreadsheet.*

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2. *Do any of your findings surprise you?*

I was surprised at the number of different types of analysts that were recommended to me. I was also shocked at how high the median salary was for actuaries as compared to the other, very similar, jobs. This was specifically in response to the difference in salary between actuaries and accountants because there are very few large differences between the two job descriptions.

3. *Rank the jobs you picked from best to worst, and briefly explain why you did so.*

Actuary, Data Scientist, Accountant, Financial Analyst, Economist, Budget Analyst, Management Analyst, Mathematician, Operations Research Analyst

A big factor in how I ranked my choices was my personal connection to people who worked in my best-ranked fields. My mom was an actuary, my stepdad is a data scientist, and my aunt is an accountant, and they all have positive things to say about what they do on a daily basis. Additionally, I would like to earn a good salary, so the median salary came into play when deciding between very similar careers.