

Interview Prep Guide

Step 1: Don't just start applying

You need to make sure you have the technical skills down cold. If not, you're wasting time on an application when you should have been studying.

Step 2: Figure out what topics to study

There are just a few topics that data scientist interviewers love to ask. I call them “**DNA Topics**”. No matter where you are born in the world, we humans share 99% of our DNA. In the same way, no matter the tech company, data scientist interviewers cover the same material. Do you know the DNA Topics? If not, no worries. Click this [link](#) and you'll get all the DNA Topics. Save them for after you finish reading this guide.

Step 3: Individual Study→Group Study→Repeat

For each DNA Topic:

- **80% of your time should be spent doing Individual Study Sessions (ISS):** This is where you engrain a DNA Topic into your memory. Let's say you read up on logistic regression. Your ISS should be a 70/30 split between the following:
 - Problem sets (70%): Try to answer logistic regression practice problems without any help.
 - Information gathering (30%): For all the logistic regression problems you got wrong, refer to resources to strengthen your understanding.
- **20% of your time should be spent doing Group Study Sessions (GSS):** This is when you practice the topics you learned from ISS amongst your peers.

- Oral recitation (60%): Talk about how logistic regression works with at least one peer. This is important because technical interviews often have an in person component as well as a coding component.
- Group problem set (40%): A data science problem is presented, and every single person talks to each other about a proposed solution.

Step 4: Take a Check-in Assessment

After you do Step 3 for all of the DNA Topics, now it's time to check and see if you're ready to nail those technical interviews! Here's how you know you can at least start to apply.

- On a random sample of **20 model coding problems**, you can successfully code at least 15 of them while only getting online help for when you are looking up syntax from the package documentation.
- On a random sample of **50 non-coding ML questions**, you are at least getting 35 of them correct without any help at all.

Stick to the method! I applied to >140 ML jobs and I wish I figured this out earlier...