

# CLARA RHOADES

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## summary

Data scientist with 6+ years of experience in analytics, systems optimization, and technical leadership, now specializing in applied machine learning and completing a Master of Information and Data Science at UC Berkeley while leading full-time technical teams. Skilled in Python, SQL, and ML tools (TensorFlow, PyTorch), with a systems-level perspective shaped by both engineering and humanities training.

## education

### Master of Information and Data Science

*University of California, Berkeley, School of Information.*

- Designed for experienced professionals; completed alongside full-time technical leadership roles
- Focus in machine learning, big data systems (Spark), predictive modeling, and ethical AI

### BA, Double major, minor: Philosophy, History of Math and Science; Comparative Literature, Classics

*St. John's College, Santa Fe. Graduation: May 2019.*

- Only student in St. John's College history to complete and publicly defend two senior theses

## experience

### Senior Manager, Technology and Data Systems

*The Mission Continues, Remote*

*January 2023 - Present*

Led strategic data and engineering initiatives across a national nonprofit, combining predictive modeling, automation, and infrastructure design to drive growth and efficiency.

- Developed and deployed predictive models to identify high-opportunity markets, enabling strategic expansion to 2 new cities and driving a 20% increase in volunteer activity.
- Built automated data pipelines and analytics workflows to support scalable, real-time decision-making across programs and operations.
- Led a cross-functional team in the development of a mobile app integrated with core systems, boosting volunteer satisfaction to 95% and increasing veteran leader confidence by 38%.

### Director, Development and Data Strategy

*New Schools for Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA*

*June 2021 - January 2023*

Led cross-functional data strategy and platform engineering to support enrollment innovation, resource optimization, and impact measurement across a regional education network.

- Oversaw technical team of 3 and served as Certified Salesforce Admin, optimizing workflows and integrations to improve system performance and data quality.
- Built predictive tools to support high-stakes funding and policy decisions, directly influencing resource allocation and student outcomes.
- Led analytics strategy for the launch of a new school application system, resulting in a 200% increase in community engagement and a significantly streamlined user experience.

### Manager, Development and Data Systems

*New Schools for Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA*

*November 2020 - June 2021*

Built technical foundations for school performance tracking and organizational growth.

- Designed and implemented a scalable Salesforce infrastructure from scratch, improving data management and reporting accuracy.
- Automated reporting pipelines aligned to education policy frameworks, enabling real-time performance monitoring across partner schools.

## technical skills

**Languages:** Python, SQL, R

**Machine Learning:** scikit-learn, TensorFlow, PyTorch, Keras, XGBoost, Random Forests, Clustering

**Data Engineering:** Apache Spark, Hadoop, Databricks, AWS EC2, Docker, PostgreSQL, Neo4j, NoSQL, ETL/ELT, API Integrations

**Data Analysis:** Pandas, NumPy, Tidyverse

**Visualization:** Tableau, Plotly, ggplot2, Matplotlib, Seaborn

**Tools & Environments:** GitHub, Jupyter, VS Code, RStudio