Connor Thompson
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Education

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY — Provo, UT
MS, Statistics. GPA 4.0 — April 2026 Graduation
Thesis: "Importance Learning: A Data Driven Approach to the Inverse MDP"
Advisor: Nathan Sandholtz

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY — Provo, UT
BS, Statistics. GPA 3.82, Major GPA : 3.87 — April 2024 Graduation

Academic Experience

Research Assistant — Provo, Utah
12/2023 – Current
- Worked on research project under Dr. Nathan Sandholtz at BYU. We developed a new method to solve inverse MDPs while accounting for uncertainty in the process, and applied the method to the fourth down problem in the NFL
- Paper: "Importance Learning: A Data Driven Approach to the Inverse MDP"
  Submitted to CPAIOR
  Coauthors: Nathan Sandholtz, Timothy C.Y. Chan, Bo Lin, Brian Hartman, Jacob Miller

Presentations:
- "Memory Learning: A Computational Approach to Estimating Memory Bias in Human Decision Making" — 03/2024 BYU SRC
- Memory Learning: A Computational Approach to Estimating Memory Bias in Human Decision Making Applied to the 4th Down Decision in the NFL" — 08/2024, JSM
- "Importance Learning: A Data-Driven Approach to Inverse Optimization" — 03/2025 BYU SRC

Teaching Assistant — Provo, Utah
Courses: — 08/2024 – Current
- Stat 340 - Probability and Inference II
- Stat 487 - Deep Learning

Professional Experience

BambooHR — Draper, Utah
AI Engineering / Data Science Intern — 05/2025 – 08/2025
- Performed prompt engineering experiments to decrease LLM latency while maintaining performance, wrote comprehensive report detailing findings
- Researched and wrote technical report exploring a new method for LLM orchestration
- Researched comprehensive methods for analyzing and evaluating LLM processes and outputs

BYU Enrollment Services — Provo, Utah
Data Science Intern — 05/2024 – 08/2024
- Cleaned data, performed analysis, and built statistical and predictive models in R and Python
- As the statistics expert on the team, performed multiple statistical analyses and wrote technical reports, including causal inference and regression projects

- Validated and improved machine learning model for predicting student class enrollment
- Performed analysis to quantify bias in machine learning models

BYU Office of IT   Provo, Utah
Data Analyst / Team Lead   04/2023 – 05/2024
- Promoted to Team Lead in 09/2023, directed and supervised the whole team's efforts, oversaw training and project management
- Performed Data Analysis and Visualization using Tableau, SQL, Python, and Excel.
- Created reports and performed analysis in order to improve processes and customer support

BYU Office of IT   Provo, Utah
IT Support Analyst   01/2023 – 04/2023
- Call center role, helped students and professors across campus with technology problems
- Certified on a wide variety of campus technologies

BYU Financial Services   Provo, Utah
Student Accountant   08/2022 – 01/2023
- Performed accounting reconciliations using thousands of financial records in Excel
- Trusted with large amount of private information
- Wrote algorithms in VBA to automate parts of the reconciliation process

Leadership and Activities
BYU Data Science Association   08/2025 – Current
Networking Specialist
- Planned monthly events with industry/academic experts teaching short lessons
- Part of planning for many association-wide events

BYU Statistics Association   08/2023 – 04/2024
Data Science Representative
- Acted as representative for students in the Data Science emphasis in the Statistics Department
- Planned two events for 50+ students
- Part of planning for many association-wide events

Awards
- Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement, BYU Department of Statistics   09/2025
- Award for Best Session Presentation, BYU SRC   03/2024

Other Work Experience

BYU Dining Services   Provo, Utah
Bakery Assistant   08/2021 – 08/2022
- Worked late nights to make BYU's famous cougartail donut

Millennium Pest Management   Huntersville, North Carolina
Pest Control Technician   06/2020 – 08/2021
- Applied pest control techniques to homes and businesses