

Currently, I'm a senior at the University of South Florida pursuing a degree in Information Science with a concentration in Data Science and Analytics. In the past, I've interned with companies such as Chewy and IBM, working with web-based data. My concentration in data science and analytics has helped my career aspirations by equipping me with advanced skills in statistical analysis, predictive analytics, and data visualization. One of reasons I've opted for this career path is due to a fascination of a class that I took at Franciscan University, Database and Information Systems. During that course, our section was taught complex SQL logic, MySQL, and MS Access. Afterwards, I realized my passion was not in software development (as I was majoring in Computer Science at that time), but rather working with data to drive informed decision-making. In the future, I envision myself working as a data scientist or as a data analyst.

In terms of internship experiences, I had the privilege of serving as a Marketing Analytics Intern at IBM in New York, where I analyzed data sets to identify customer segments and provided insights for targeted marketing strategies. This experience not only improved my analytical skills but also exposed me to the practical real-life applications of analytics. Additionally, in my role as a Business Analytics Intern at Chewy in Dania Beach, FL, I created dashboards visualizing widget metrics and did exploratory data analysis for other projects. While these two experiences were challenging in certain ways, it was incredibly rewarding to overcome these hurdles and contribute my skills to meaningful projects.

Beyond internships, my role as a Network Switch Installer at Virtual Service Operations involved installing and upgrading network switches for clients. Working in IT was a first for me, but working with network equipment with experienced professionals gave me a glimpse of a different career path. In my volunteer work for Girls in Tech, Inc., I participated in code review

sessions and collaborative problem-solving, which enhanced my collaborative and problem-solving skills. While these roles are not directly related to my major or concentration, they still were critical for my professional development.

I have not yet explored the resources provided by the USF Career Services Website or attended Career Express appointments. However, I use the USF Library on a daily basis. The USF Library has been so useful in broadening my understanding of data science trends, ethical practices in cybersecurity, and new technologies. In two of my classes at USF, Information Behaviors and Information Policy and Ethics, I engaged with scholarly articles, industry reports, and journals using the library which gave comprehensive perspective on those fields.

To wrap up, my journey here at USF has solidified my interest in pursuing a career in analytics and data science. The journey so far, marked by various internships and volunteer opportunities, has instilled a passion for leveraging data to drive impactful solutions. My plan to enter into this career path is to keep contributing my skills and knowledge to this field, whether it be through analytics assignments in my senior year here at USF, or through online data science competitions, like Kaggle. Regardless, I love to stay involved as much as I can and cannot wait to see what the future holds in store.