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STATS 419
Instructor: Monte J. Shaffer
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My name is Jessica, and I'm a 36 year old senior in the Data Analytics program on the business track. I am originally from the east coast, but have been traveling around and living out west for the past 15 years. The photo above is me last summer at the summit of South Sister in central Oregon. Reaching the peak was a goal of mine for many years, and it felt great to finally make it a priority and finish the climb. Next summer, I hope to progress to Mt. Baker, which requires more technical skills and additional endurance training. I have a previous BS and MS in Geology, and while this is no longer the focus of my career goals, mountaineering and climbing around the PNW volcanoes helps me feel like I'm staying close to my roots.

I chose to attend WSU for the flexibility of the Global Campus online courses. I like to travel, and hope to one day work remotely. This course is the last course I need to graduate, and my goals are to learn as much as possible. I've really enjoyed all the statistics courses I've had so far, and I'm excited to continue to add new skills and learn as much as possible. I'm starting an online graduate program in Data Analytics at OSU concurrently, and I'm considering applying to a PhD program in Statistics after completion. My strengths include time management and attention to detail, and weaknesses include lack of experience and trouble communicating my skills adequately. I'd really like to continue using all the programming and statistics I've learned and advance beyond the beginner stage towards proficiency.

My ideal first job would be as an entry level data scientist. From scanning existing job postings, it seems like most of these positions require an advanced degree and 1 or 2 years of experience. I recently started an internship at a consulting firm in an attempt to get some relevant experience while I work on

my graduate degree. I'm not entirely confident the work I am doing is applicable, but I'm making the most of it and continuing to advocate for more technical assignments. At minimum I hope to get a positive reference and make some new connections.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Job Demand</u>	<u>My Preferences</u>
1	Data Scientist	Data Scientist
2	Machine Learning	Business Analyst
3	Data Analyst	Statistical Modeling
4	Data Visualization	Machine Learning
5	Data Engineer	Data Engineer