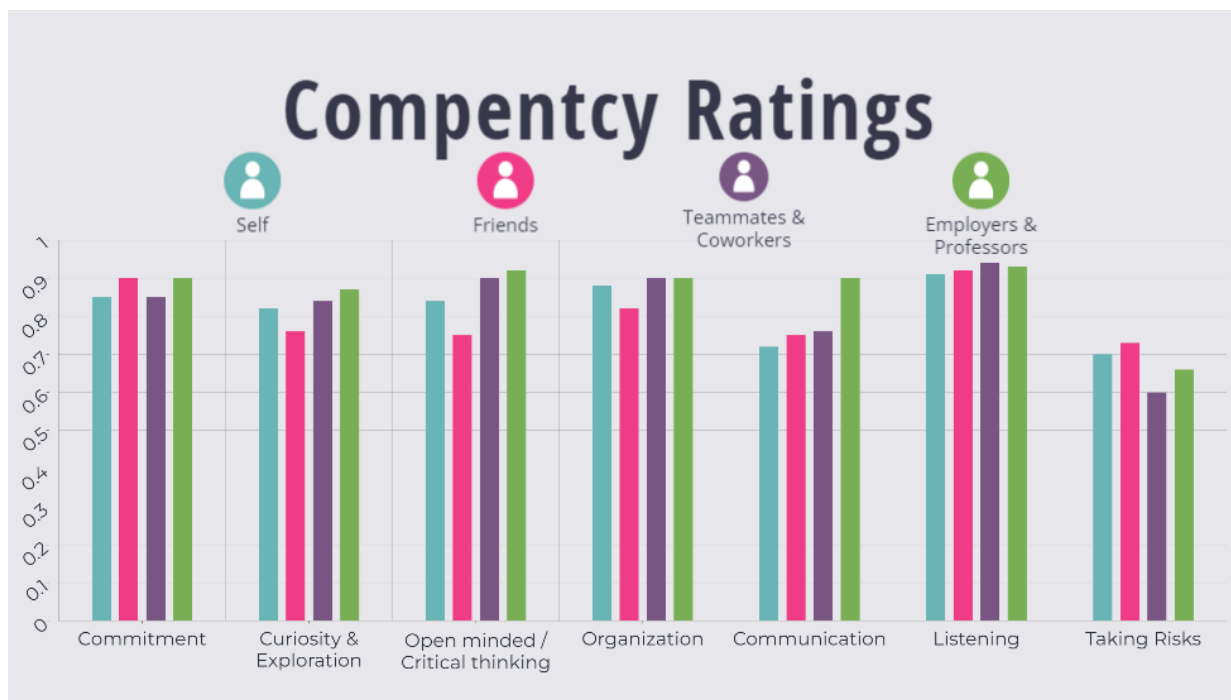


Competency Audit

I desire to become a proficient data analyst equipped with knowledge, skills, and abilities essential for success in this dynamic career path. From a young age my fascination with computers has been evident. Throughout my college journey, I dedicated a lot of time exploring different pathways within computer science to pinpoint my specific interest, and data analytics was in the forefront. The prospect of working with data to extract valuable insights, and aid companies in decision making, holds immense intrigue and reward for me. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the transformative field of data analytics.

Currently enrolled in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree in computer science, I am committed to augmenting my understanding of the field through a strategic selection of courses. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of a data analyst's role, I researched job requirements, identifying key skills prevalent in the industry. To gauge my current standing and identify areas for growth, I compiled a chart ranking these skills as a percentage out of 1 for intuitive visualization, based on specific scales and measures. Furthermore, I conducted surveys soliciting feedback from diverse sources, including friends, teammates, coworkers, employers, and professors, as well as augmenting this with self assessments. My journey as a computer science major is not only marked by academic pursuits but also by a proactive and strategic approach to strengthening the skills crucial for a meaningful career in data analytics.



Commitment:

Dedication to one's work is paramount, encompassing effective time management, a strong work ethic, and a genuine passion for the tasks at hand. Across the board, rankings for commitment were consistently high, reflecting my unwavering commitment to delivering my best

work. The K.U.T commitment measure (Klein et al.) served as the assessment tool for these rankings. Moving forward, I aim to maintain and further enhance this commitment through continued diligence and a focus on excellence.

Curiosity and Exploration:

In the realm of data analytics, fostering curiosity and embracing exploration are critical for generating innovative ideas and manipulating datasets effectively. Ratings for curiosity and exploration were generally consistent, with a slight inclination towards higher ratings from teammates and employers, reflecting a heightened level of dedication in professional settings. Utilizing the C.E.I Curiosity and Exploration Inventory measure (Kashdan et al.), I gauged where I lie with these skills. Future improvement in this area involves sustained curiosity and a proactive approach to exploring new avenues within the data analytics field.

Open-Mindedness and Critical Thinking:

The ability to relate data findings to diverse fields demands open-mindedness and sharp critical thinking skills. Ratings in this competency revealed a foundational understanding, with a recognition that growth in this skill will come with accumulated field experience. The A.O.T measure (Actively Open-Minded Thinking Beliefs) (Baron et al.) facilitated the evaluation. Continued development will involve expanding my analytical horizons and making interdisciplinary connections to enhance the impact of data insights.

Organization:

Effective organization is indispensable, especially in managing extensive datasets and information. Described as highly organized in my daily life, this trait is expected to seamlessly transition into the workplace. The perceived organization innovativeness scale (P.O.R.G.I) (Hurt et al.) provided the framework for assessing organizational skills. Ongoing commitment to maintaining a well-organized approach will contribute to efficient data management in the professional world.

Communication:

Communication, a multifaceted skill, showed notable variance between self-ratings and employer ratings. Recognizing the situational nature of this competence, I excelled professionally, balancing personal challenges to meet the demands of the workplace. The personal report of communication apprehension (P.R.C.A-24) (McCroskey et al.) facilitated the evaluation. To improve, I will continue refining my communication skills, particularly in diverse settings and with unfamiliar audiences.

Listening:

Listening emerged as a strength of mine, consistently rated highest on average. Recognizing the vital role of active listening in data analytics, this strength positions me well for establishing accurate and meaningful connections with clients. The willingness to listen scale (Richmond & Hickson) underscored this competence. Continuing to hone this skill will further strengthen client relationships and enhance the impact of data-driven insights.

Risk-Taking:

While risk-taking is crucial for forging unconventional connections, it surfaced as an area for growth in my competency ratings. The preference for security in my work process contributed to lower scores. Recognizing the importance of taking calculated risks, the risk propensity scale (RPS), by Meertens & Lion served as the measuring tool. With an expanding knowledge base, I anticipate a gradual increase in my willingness to take risks, fostering innovative and impactful connections in data analytics.

The variance in competency ratings underscores the nuanced nature of individual strengths and challenges. It is crucial to recognize that certain competencies may carry different weights based on the context, and personal attributes, such as anxiety, can influence the ease with which some skills are developed. Looking forward, I plan to enhance specific programming skills, including learning SQL in upcoming computer science coursework. Continuing with Java, C, and Python, and expanding my knowledge of coding and data structures are also priorities. Securing an internship this summer will expose me to more workplace practices. Additionally, I am focussing on statistical analysis through current and future statistics courses. To improve interpersonal skills, I am stepping outside of my comfort zone for meaningful interactions. These strategic efforts aim to cultivate a well-rounded skill set aligned with the dynamic demands of data analytics.