



# Suggested Questions to Ask Your Mentor

Not sure where to start? Here are some questions you can ask on your own time. (http://data-science-career.springboard.com/learn/#/curriculum) science-career-track/learn/#/dashboard)

## Background

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- Tell me about your background.
- What do you currently do at work?
- What is your mentorship style? Could you share how you've best worked together in the past with another mentee?
- How do you prefer to be contacted outside of the weekly calls?
- How do you tend to give feedback?

## Course Planning

- Next week, I plan to study/work on Unit(s) \_\_\_\_\_. Are there any tips or common pitfalls I should keep in mind?
- My background includes skills in A and B. Have you had students with these strengths? If so, what parts of the curriculum came easier? Which parts were more challenging?

## Curriculum

- After reviewing the resources on Topic A, I'm still not understanding the concept. Can we go over it together?
- I think Topic D is really fascinating. What other resources can you point me to?
- When I was working on Exercise B, I was able to do X and Y actions, but then got stuck on Z. What should I try next?
- I'm having trouble figuring out if my idea is good enough. Can I bounce off some really rough thoughts with you to get your feedback?
- I'm not sure whether to keep working in this section of my capstone to improve it or move on? How do you decide when something is good enough?

## Choosing Data Science as a Career

- What do you wish you had known when you first started your career in Data Science?
- What was most difficult when transitioning to Data Science?
- What (if anything) might you do differently?

- What are common mistakes people make when choosing to go into Data Science?
- How do I best learn how to apply my data science skills to business problems?

## Transitioning to Data Science & The Job Search



Feel free to ask your career coach these questions to help you transition to a data science career.

- What skills and characteristics do you look for when interviewing candidates? (<http://springboard.com/workshops/data-science-career-science-career-track/learn/#/curriculum>)
- Where do you see the field going in the next 3-5 years? (<http://data-science-career.springboard.com/>)
- How will the Data Science role change with the industry? (<http://springboard.com/workshops/data-science-career-science-career-track/learn/#/dashboard>)

- What is the main thing that differentiates an okay candidate to a stellar candidate in a job interview?
- What are the pros and cons of working at a big company versus as small company?
- What are some of the technical areas I need to brush up on, before my interview?
- Who are some of the influencers you follow to stay up to date on this field?
- Given my background and skills, what kind of jobs and companies are best suited for me?

*Last updated on February 22, 2019*

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