

# HOW TO SUCCEED IN MDS!\*

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You'll understand the name in about nine months. It will never be funny

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**IS THIS PROGRAM  
HARD?**

# YES\*

This program moves fast and it's very easy to fall behind if you lose the tempo.

**CAN I LEARN ENOUGH  
IN A YEAR TO BE A  
DATA SCIENTIST?**

# YES\*

By becoming a data scientist, you are committing yourself to a life of learning. This program will get your foot in the door.

**WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND  
A JOB?**

# YES\*

I am confident that anyone who graduates from this program will be able to find a job. The quality of the job will depend on the extra job.



**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

# EXERCISE

*“...[t]hese data are suggestive that aerobic fitness enhances cognitive strategies enabling to respond effectively to an imposed challenge with a better yield in task performance.”*

# SLEEP

*“...converging evidence, from the molecular to the phenomenological, leaves little doubt that offline memory reprocessing during sleep is an important component of how our memories are formed and ultimately shaped.”*

# USEFUL TOOLS

# GRAMMARLY

(\$139.95 USD FOR PREMIUM/FREE FOR  
REGULAR)

I'm not a great writer. This tool prevented enough embarrassing typos to make it worth it to me.

# PYCHARM

## (EDUCATIONAL LICENSE FOR FREE)

Hands down my favorite Python IDE. I pay real money

**PRODUCTIVITY  
CHALLENGE TIMER  
(\$3.00 FOR PREMIUM)**

**AVAILABLE ON ANDROID/IOS**

# "MY METHOD"

This strategy is adapted from A Mind for Numbers by  
Barbara Oakley PhD.



# WORK IN POMODOROS

Pomodoro Method = 25 Minutes on 5 Minutes off

Repeat 4 times

Then take a break

# PLEDGE YOURSELF TO A WORK SCHEDULE

For me, that was:

- Two hours Mondays-Thursdays
- Six hours Fridays-Sundays
- Unless absolutely necessary: Nothing past 8pm

**TRACK EVERYTHING! KEEP YOURSELF  
HONEST**

Sort your assignments from Hardest to Easiest

Start working on your hardest assignment, regardless  
of when it's due.

Keep working until you make no progress for 15 minutes. Then...

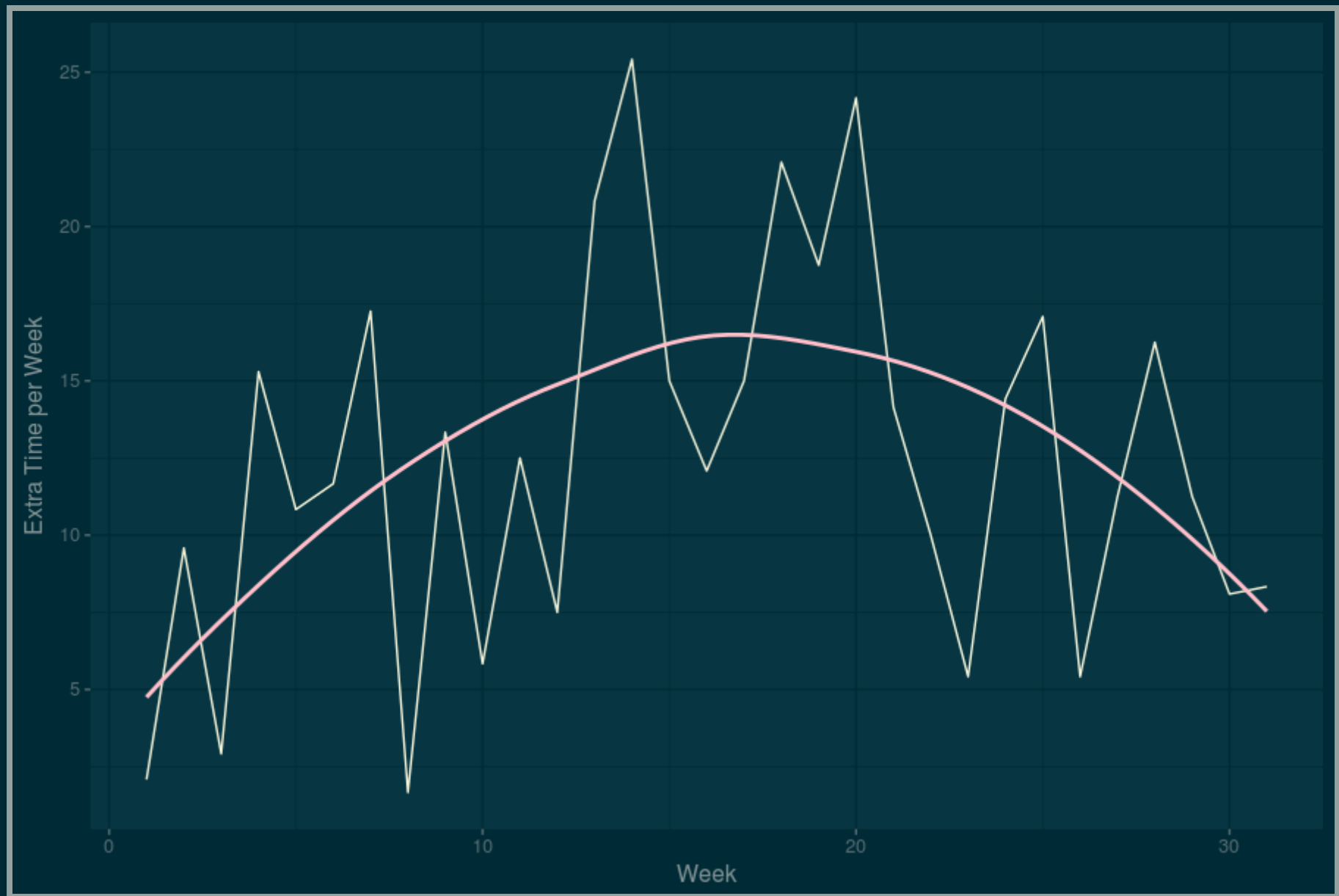
1. Talk to your peers on Slack
2. Talk to the TAs/Teaching Fellows
3. Switch assignments/questions

Do the optional work whenever possible

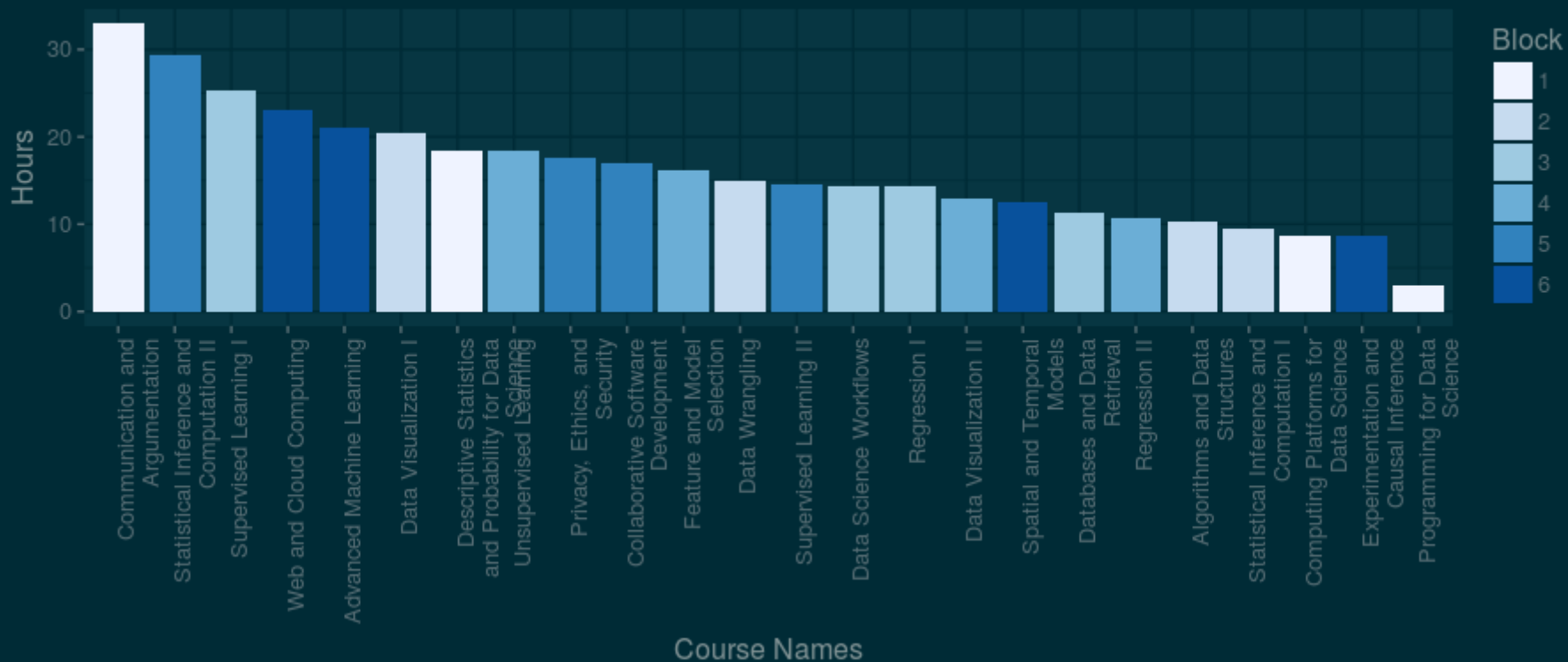
Some of the most rewarding work is hidden in the optional questions.



**FUN GRAPHS!**



# Out of Class Hours Spent on Each MDS Course



# WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR JOBS?

About a month from end of capstone

What should I do instead of applying for jobs?

Go to Meetups

Work on a side project or compete in Kaggle

Learn a skill not taught in this program

- Scala/Spark
- Web development
- d3
- Linux administration
- Negotiation