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
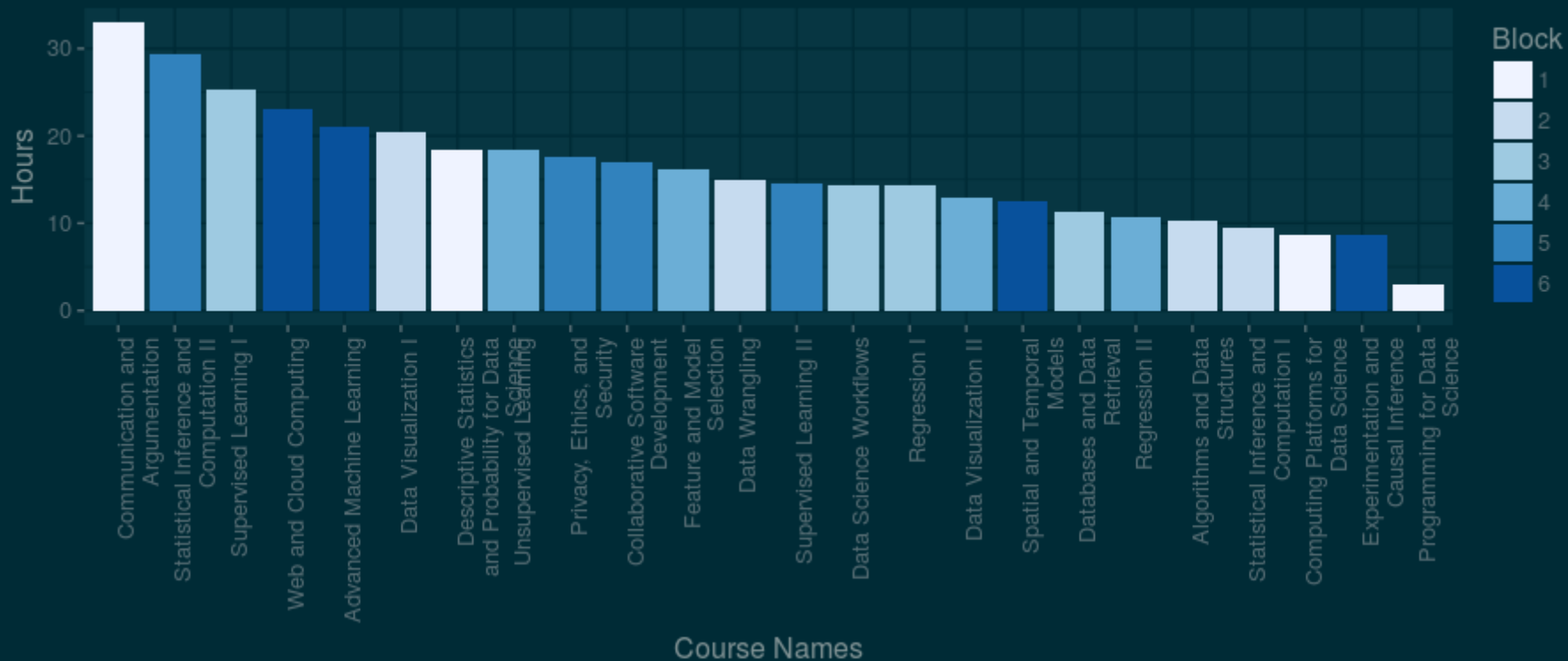3. Switch assignments/questions
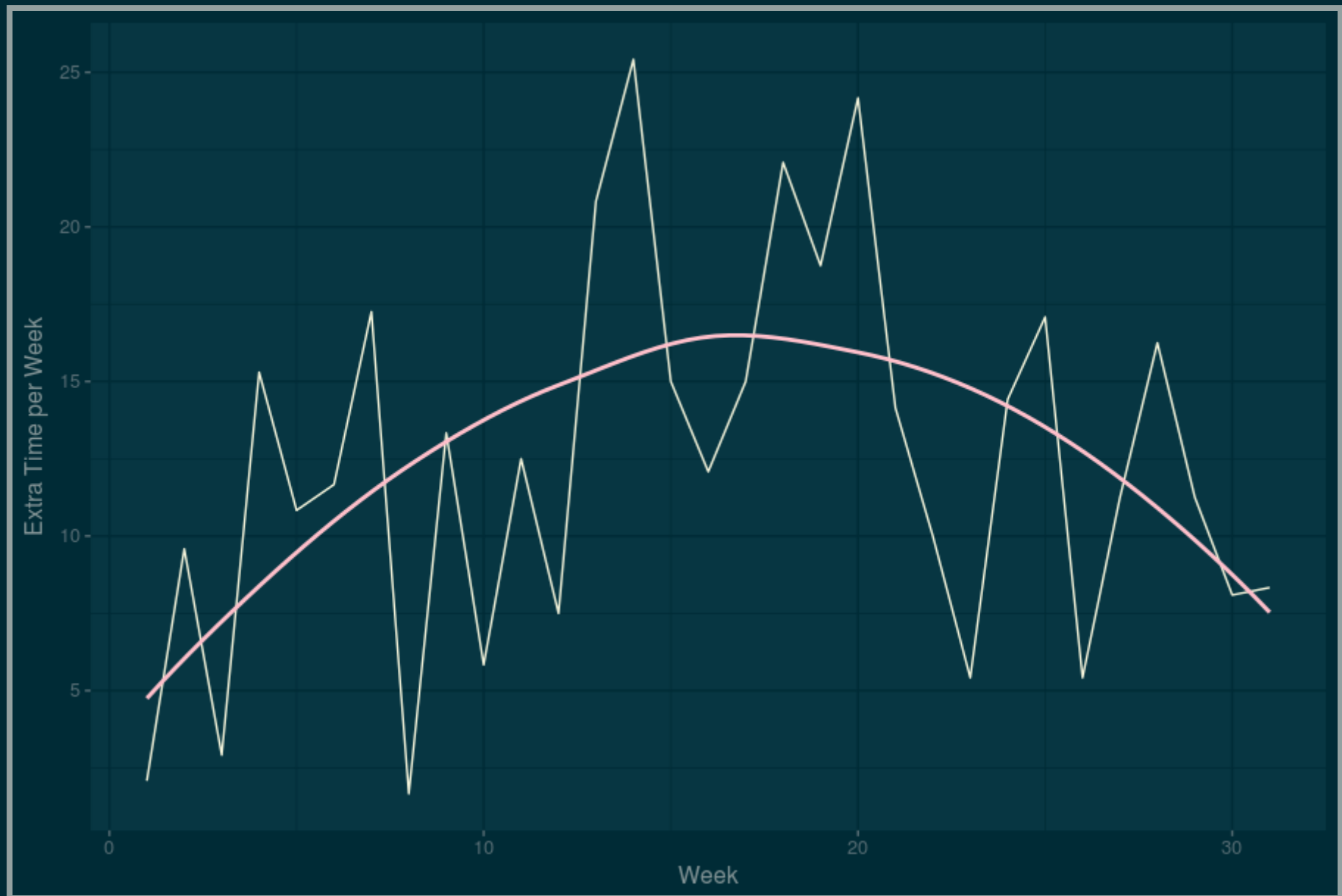
Do the optional work whenever possible

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

FUN GRAPHS!

Out of Class Hours Spent on Each MDS Course

Hours (y-axis): 0, 10, 20, 30

Block legend: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Course Names (x-axis):
- Communication and Argumentation
- Statistical Inference and Computation II
- Supervised Learning I
- Web and Cloud Computing
- Advanced Machine Learning
- Data Visualization I
- Descriptive Statistics and Probability for Data Science
- Unsupervised Learning
- Privacy, Ethics, and Security
- Collaborative Software Development
- Feature and Model Selection
- Data Wrangling
- Supervised Learning II
- Data Science Workflows
- Regression I
- Data Visualization II
- Spatial and Temporal Models
- Databases and Data Retrieval
- Regression II
- Algorithms and Data Structures
- Statistical Inference and Computation I
- Computing Platforms for Data Science
- Experimentation and Causal Inference
- Programming for Data Science

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR JOBS?

ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE THE END OF THE CAPSTONE PROJECT*

WHAT SHOULD I DO INSTEAD OF APPLYING FOR JOBS?

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

GO TO MEETUPS

QUESTIONS?

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