

Thinkful: Career planning document

Section 1: Explore the landscape

My first foray into the world of data science has been very interesting and informative. I was initially turned on to data science through my interest in analytical statistics involving baseball as well as modeling in environmental studies. Predicting the future performance of baseball players based on their past statistics has always fascinated me, and my interest in ocean health has also been a major driver.

The results of the linked surveys seem to back up these motivations. The Mango-Solutions survey pegged me as a visualizer. I have always certainly been very drawn to heat maps of player performance and graphs of fish stocks over time, for example, so I think this makes sense. The survey after the video determined that I am most interested in statistics and least interested in business, which also completely fits with what I think about myself. It also put me as a creative-type, which I would agree with as well.

Section 2: Job postings

Job 1

- Starbucks
- Senior Data Science Engineer
- I worked at Starbucks Corporate HQ in a customer service role and was very impressed by the company overall, despite not loving customer service as a job. I would be happy to go back and work for them again in a different role.
- <http://www.analyticaltalent.datasciencecentral.com/jobs/senior-data-science-engineer-starbucks-seattle-washington-100802160-d>

Job 2

- Redfin
- Principal Data Scientist - Customer Products
- The housing market in Seattle is booming and I think that it would be interesting to work in this field because of this. Home buying is also something that I'm not all that familiar with and it would be interesting to expand my knowledge in this analytic way.
- https://www.redfin.com/about/jobs/description/principal-data-scientist-customer-products?jobId=okUt4fwv&location=WA%20-%20Seattle&from=data_science_analytics

Job 3

- LiveStories
- Sr. Data Scientist
- Working in the public sector has always interested me, and this seems to be close to that, but maybe with less government bureaucracy. Using data to do good in the world is a huge motivator for me, and this company seems to align well with that.
- <https://jobs.smartrecruiters.com/Livestories/743999659131398-sr-data-scientist>

Job 4

- University of Washington
- Data Scientist
- Working for my alma mater in an effort to keep up with current technology trends and tools is very appealing. They also mention that applicants should be curious about how people learn, and this is fascinating to me as well.
- <https://uw hires.admin.washington.edu/ENG/candidates/default.cfm?szCategory=jobprofile&szOrderID=149011&szLocationID=67>

Job 5

- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Data Scientist III
- I have a recent history of cancer in the family, so working in cancer research would be especially rewarding for me.
- <https://careers-fhcr.icims.com/jobs/10378/data-scientist-iii/job?mobile=false&needsRedirect=false&mode=job&iisn=Glassdoor&iis=Glassdoor>

Section 3: Your company hitlist

Company 1

- Seattle Mariners
- I have been a Mariners fan since I was seven years old, and the Mariners have, in some way, driven some of the major passions that I have in life. Working for them would feel like a dream come true, and like things had come full circle.

Company 2

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Doing philanthropic work is very appealing to me. I do a lot of volunteer work in my personal life, and I know that working for a company that does such good work would be very fulfilling for me on a personal level.

Company 3

- NOAA
- I started college studying fisheries science and have a huge ongoing interest in the marine environment. Working with data about the natural world would be very interesting, and I feel like I already have an understanding that goes deeper than surface level.

Company 4

- Spotify
- I have a passion (and degree) in music, and working with it as a career was a goal while in college. Combining music and data as a career feels like a role I was born to play.

Company 5

- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
- Tennis is another main physical and spectator hobby of mine. I believe that tennis players are the most well-rounded athletes, and working to get more people interested and involved in tennis would be an objective that I could definitely get behind.

Section 4: Find your people

Local data science events:

- Data for Democracy
- Seattle Data for Good
- Northwest Traders and Technical Analysts

Local data scientist from a company on your hit list:

- Jesse Smith, Seattle Mariners

First or second degree connection in the industry:

- Luke Gutzwiller, Spare5

Section 5: Write your own story

Describe your ideal job to an industry professional

I study environmental impacts of Pacific salmon in the Puget Sound and northeast Pacific. My team makes predictive models based on historical data to forecast salmon runs and make recommendations to the industry on how much to catch in a particular fishing season. We use harvest simulations and their associated confidence intervals to determine how much fishing is likely to cause a collapse of the fishery. We include weather events in our models as well, to see how an extreme weather event may impact and update our fishing recommendations.

Describe the same job to a non-technical family member

I work for NOAA analyzing the health of marine life in the Puget Sound and northeast Pacific. Specifically, my team looks at historical salmon populations and how they are affected by ocean warming and increasingly intense weather events. We also look at salmon health in the Puget Sound versus in the northeast Pacific and investigate how long it takes for trends in the Pacific to make their way into the Puget Sound and begin affecting animal populations there.

Draft your aspirational professional summary

Environmentally-focused data scientist with experience in disease outbreak modeling with the Gates Foundation and interpreting large government data sets with LiveStories. I currently am working to determine acceptable fishing levels for the salmon stocks in the Puget Sound and northeast Pacific in an effort to keep the population of these keystone species at levels that will sustain them for generations to come.