

Memo

From: Ling Zhu, Director of the Data Analytics Programs

To: Rich Nespola, BoT Member, and Charles Rasberry, VP Advancement

Re: Updates on the Data Analytics Programs at LIU Post

Date: July 27, 2020

1. 2019 MDA Cohort

Twenty-two students enrolled in the 2019 MDA (MS Data Analytics) cohort. Sixteen (73%) of them graduated as scheduled by this summer, which means they have completed the capstone Internship course even after the COVID-19 pandemic started. Many of them received full-time job offers. For example, Erin Caldwell started in June as a Client Service Associate at UBS, and Stefan Faistenauer is now a Project Associate at Bavarian US Office for Economic Development based in San Francisco. Both are the inaugural Nespola Scholarship recipients. A job placement survey will be conducted in early September for us to get accurate data from all graduates.

Another six students (27%) either lost their internship offers or could not secure one in the summer, and thus has deferred their graduation to December 2020. Fortunately, we are able to help most of them find new internship opportunities so that they can fulfil the capstone internship requirement in the fall. For example, ThoughtSpot, a successful business data analytics start-up that serves Fortune 500 tech firms as its clients, recently appointed two of our students as interns.

2. 2020 MDA Cohort

As of July 27 we admitted 36 applicants for the Fall 2020 cohort, and 19 (53%) of them have officially enrolled in the program. Another four students who were admitted in spring 2020 will join the fall cohort and graduate with them in next summer. More than half of those admitted but not enrolled are international students who have difficulties to secure a student visa outside the United States at this time (we are still able to enroll a number of international students who have already been in the country). The following is the basic profile of the 2020 cohort:

- Average undergraduate GPA: 3.1 (out of 4)
- Undergraduate colleges: 9, including Rutgers, Stony Brook, Baruch, Colorado State University, SUNY Buffalo, etc.
- International students: 26%
- Female students: 17%

Our major challenges in enrollment are the relatively low matriculation rate (53%), an incoming GPA lower than last year (3.2 of the 2019 cohort), lower international student ratio (44% in last year), and lower female rate (40% in last year). Nevertheless, our enrollment number remains flat compared to last fall (21 in fall 2019) given the current difficult situation.

3. Plan of Fall 2020

For now all MDA classes in the fall will be offered in person, consistent with the university reopening plan. I have personally reached out to almost every enrolled student in the summer. Most of them are looking forward to their study at Post in the fall. Given the experience in online delivery we had in the past semester, all classes can be smoothly moved to the online modality if necessary. We received very positive student feedback in the online classes in spring 2020. For example, the overall teaching effectiveness score is 4.7 out of 5 in my MDA 730 Data Privacy and Regulatory Compliance. The followings are just some examples of our students' work in class:



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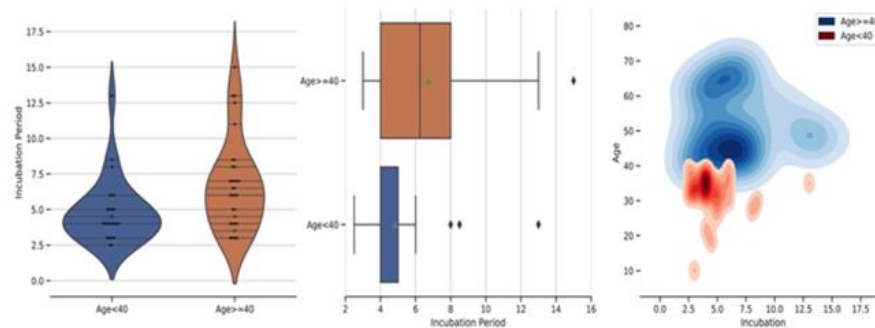


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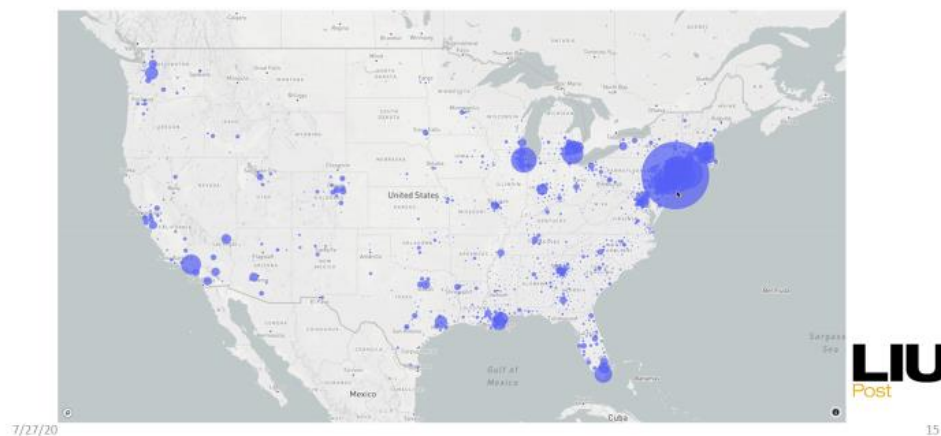
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Our MDA Students' Work

- We found that the COVID19 patients age ≥ 40 have a longer incubation time than those age < 40 (statistically significant!)



Our MDA Students' Work



There is also new move at the undergraduate level. In Fall 2020 the College of Management will officially offer a new concentration of Data Analytics under the undergraduate major of Business Administration. This new concentration was approved by the NYSED in September 2019. Nine undergraduate students (many in the Dean's Scholars program) have already chosen this concentration and will take the first data analytics course in the fall.

More excitingly we submitted our application in late spring with the NYSED for a new Bachelor of Sciences major in Data Analytics. The curriculum of the major includes four modules with a total of 60 credits. The Foundational module includes courses in statistics and programming. The Core module includes database, visualization, data mining, and machine learning. The Applied module includes AI, data privacy, and capstone project. The Elective module allows students to pursue a minor in AI, CS, entrepreneurship, finance, etc. We expect the proposal to be approved in the fall and we can start the program in fall 2021.