As someone with all of his education and professional work experiences coming from Finance industry, at some point in my career I became discouraged by the lack of technical skills. And it's not about my specific job, but the industry as whole.

Almost every single professional in the investment management segment follows the identical career path and registers to write the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exams. Unfortunately, after successfully writing my first CFA exam, I’ve learned that this designation is teaching the theory but not helping to develop actual applicable skill. What’s interesting is that CFA Institute itself reinforced my opinion when they announced that artificial intelligence and big data questions will be added to the exam curriculum. And while they do not expect the candidates to code computer programs, but rather distinguish between structured and unstructured data analytic methods as well as identify characteristics of robust investment algorithms, I have decided to distinguish myself from the crowd and take completely different path by acquiring some in-demand technical skills which are offered by this intensive course.

As for my own career path, I am seriously considering leaving my big bank for a job in small to mid-size tech or fintech firm. However, I cannot say right now which specific job title I would like to apply for, therefore I decided to build my technical foundation first, and discover what are my strengths and preferences in technical segment.

After speaking with many experienced engineers and data analysts, I was highly recommended to start with Python, and this is exactly what this course offers. It also covers topics in fundamental statistics, modeling and databases such as SQL, which is very applicable to my current job. And that is it. Answering the main question and listing topics in preferred order, I am most excited to learn python and SQL. Still, it does not mean I am less interested in learning other topics.

How the skills I'll learn in this class will help my career? And how these skills will help me to reach my goals?

First of all, while I am still employed with my current company, the advanced excel topics in pivot tables and VBA scripting along with modeling and forecasting will enhance my skills in building and generating complex custom financial reports for analysts and portfolio managers that I serve. Later topics covered in this course, such as python programming, databases, web technologies and data visualization, will get me prepared for my next occupation. In addition to my existing work experience, these skills will help me to build the outstanding resume, teach me the technical vocabulary and give me the competitive advantage over many other candidate. I don’t know yet which specific skills I will acquire, but I am hungry and ready to be challenged in completing difficult real-world problems. The harder we train for the next six months, the better we will fight.