

DATA SCIENTIST



ANALYZE

Who are Data Scientists?

Data scientists are information engineers. They solve complicated problems by collecting, analyzing, and sharing data. They're experts in computer science and are good at finding patterns in information. They help computers and humans communicate through sets of instructions called algorithms. Data scientists can be found in virtually every field, from sports to medicine. These professionals are masters at making it easy for us to sort through mountains of data in order to get to a meaningful conclusion. They're all about efficiency, whether that means organizing a better database, building a better information network, or packaging information in ways that are easy to understand. That means they need to think logically, communicate clearly, and anticipate next steps.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

- Analytical skills**
- Communication skills**
- Critical-thinking skills**
- Detail oriented**
- Ingenuity**
- Logical thinking**

“DATA SCIENCE IS USED IN ALL KINDS OF AREAS! MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS, playlist suggestions, and self-driving cars all depend on data to do what they do. Data Science is something you can use in very different fields so it never gets boring.”

—Rishi, Data Scientist

SAMPLE

What do Data Scientists do?

A typical day in the life of a data scientist looks quite different depending on where that data scientist works. A data scientist that works for a polling or research firm might participate in lots of meetings in order to design questions for an upcoming survey about a new product. A data scientist who works for a robotics lab will spend time testing and troubleshooting a computer program that coordinates how a robot performs a task. Federal, state, and local governments all need data scientists in order to analyze trends in housing, healthcare, education, and other civic endeavors. There are so many ways a data scientist can make an impact!

VARIABLES

How much do Data Scientists make?

The typical salary for a data scientist in 2016 was \$111,840—that's much higher than the average salary! The salary depends on the field in which the data scientist works. On average, data scientists who are working in the fields of programming and research earn on the higher end of a salary range.

PREDICT

Is this a growing field?

Data scientists are in high demand! It has been estimated that the need for data scientists will rise 19% over the next several years*. That's because of important global trends in cybersecurity, software development, and computer science know-how.

EXTRAPOLATE

How do I become a Data Scientist?

If you want to be a data scientist, it helps to have a strong background in computer science. In addition, you'll want to learn as much as you can about the field you'd like to work in—if you're interested in medical data, consider taking some classes in biology. If you're interested in economic data, study finance or accounting. A bachelor's degree is often required, and a master's degree is preferred.

* [All information sourced from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

* Home : Occupational Outlook Handbook: (2018, January 30). Retrieved March 22, 2018, from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>