INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Data science combines computational and inferential reasoning to draw conclusions based on data about some aspect of the real world. Data scientists come from all walks of life, all areas of study, and all backgrounds. They share an appreciation for the practical use of mathematical and scientific thinking and the power of computing to understand and solve problems for business, research, and societal impact.

The Division offers a major and minor in Data Science, as well as coursework such as Data 8: Foundations of Data Science, its connector courses, and Data Science modules that are broadly accessible to all students.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

These opportunities are open to all students:

- Help shape the Data Science program as part of a student team working on data analytics, curriculum development, communications, human resources, etc.
- Apply to be a data peer consultant.
- Make an impact with cutting-edge research and gain hands-on skills with the Data Science Discovery Research Program.
- Join a student organization such as those in the Data Science Nexus.

THE DATA SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Students will gain deep technical knowledge and an understanding of the social and human contexts and ethical implications of how data are collected, analyzed and used. Students also gain expertise in applying knowledge in a chosen Domain Emphasis; a few examples include:

- Cognition
- Computational Biology
- Geospatial Information & Technology
- Human Behavior & Psychology
- Inequalities in Society
- Social Policy and Law

"I think that the broadest possible set of people in the world need to be owners of the data."

– Statistics Professor Ani Adhikari, Co-Creator of Data 8
Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, or a student-run DeCal course. Reflect on successes, setbacks, and lessons learned in your first year. Take advantage of the free interactive course textbooks for core Data Science courses. Enroll in a Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.

Explore team-based, data research projects in the Data Science Discovery Program. Pursue independent projects with help from the Data Peer Consultants or D-Lab workshops. Consider applying to the Data Science Honors Program or writing a senior thesis.

Experience life outside of Berkeley via campus visitor and exchange programs, UCDC in the Capital, or the Cal-in-Sacramento Fellowship. Attend conferences or get involved in Data Science-related projects to supplement your curriculum. Consider gap year opportunities prior to embarking on your next academic or career adventure. Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

“What can I do with my major?”

The Data Science BA positions students to help inform and develop solutions for a range of pressing challenges, from adapting industry to a new world of data, to amplifying learning in education, to helping communities recover from disaster. Our alumni are employed in a wide variety of roles and industries.

Jobs and Employers
- Analytics Intern, Major League Baseball
- Applications Engineer, Accenture
- Data Analyst, Political Campaign
- Data Engineer, Atlassian
- Data Scientist, Uber
- Machine Learning Engineer, IBM
- Product Analyst, Hive
- Product Manager, Zynga
- Site Reliability Engineer, Adobe
- Software Engineer, Salesforce
- Technical Staff, Oracle

Graduate Programs
- Computer Science, Masters
- Earth and Environmental Science, Masters
- Information and Data Science, PhD

Examples gathered from LinkedIn and an internal survey of recent Berkeley graduates.