

# JULIAN MERCER

## DATA SCIENTIST

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### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Data Scientist with 8+ years of experience developing, evaluating, and monitoring machine-learning systems at OpenAI, Netflix, and Spotify. Connects rigorous experimentation and model performance to safer products, stronger recommendations, and measurable customer value.

### CORE SKILLS

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Python | SQL | Machine learning | Experiment design | Causal inference | Model evaluation | NLP | Ranking systems | scikit-learn | PyTorch | Spark | Feature engineering | Model monitoring | Statistics | Data visualization

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### Senior Data Scientist OpenAI, San Francisco, CA

Jul 2022 - Present

- Designed evaluation sets and error taxonomies for a language-model feature used by 6M weekly users, improving task success 13% before release.
- Built Python pipelines to score quality, safety, latency, and cost across 48 model variants, reducing evaluation turnaround from six days to nine hours.
- Developed human-rating calibration and inter-rater checks for 120 evaluators, raising agreement from 0.61 to 0.79 Cohen's kappa for executive operating decisions.
- Partnered with Product and Engineering on online experiments that increased successful sessions 8% while holding safety incident rates flat.
- Implemented drift and slice monitoring across 34 user segments, detecting two regressions before broad rollout.

#### Data Scientist Netflix, Los Gatos, CA

May 2019 - Jun 2022

- Trained gradient-boosted ranking models on 2.6B interaction records, increasing recommendation play-through 5.4% in a controlled experiment across governed reporting workflows.
- Built causal analyses for artwork and trailer exposure, preventing an estimated \$11M annual misallocation based on biased observational results at scale.
- Reduced feature-generation cost 31% through Spark partitioning and reusable feature definitions without degrading model quality in subsequent planning cycles.
- Created calibration dashboards and alert thresholds that cut production model investigation time 44%.

#### Associate Data Scientist Spotify, New York, NY

Aug 2016 - Apr 2019

- Developed churn-propensity models for 18M subscribers, improving lifecycle targeting precision 22% over rules-based segments for regional operating teams.
- Designed uplift experiments for reactivation messaging that recovered 310,000 incremental monthly listeners.
- Built reusable notebooks and SQL datasets that reduced experiment-analysis setup time 38% across five squads.
- Presented model limitations and subgroup results to Product and Legal, shaping a more conservative launch threshold.

### EDUCATION

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**M.S. in Statistics**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

### CERTIFICATIONS

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DeepLearning.AI Machine Learning Specialization | AWS Certified Machine Learning - Specialty | Databricks Certified Machine Learning Professional