JULIAN MERCER

ENTRY-LEVEL DATA SCIENTIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Entry-level Data Scientist with 2+ years of internship and first-role experience in insurance and retail analytics. Builds clean Python and SQL analyses, tests simple models against baselines, and explains findings clearly to non-technical teams.

CORE SKILLS

Python | SQL | pandas | scikit-learn | Logistic regression | Gradient boosting | Statistics | A/B testing basics | Data cleaning | Matplotlib | Tableau | Git | Jupyter | Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Data Scientist Jan 2025 - Present
Progressive Insurance, Mayfield Village, OH

- Built a logistic regression model on 400,000 policy records to flag likely renewals, beating the existing rule by 6 points of recall in validation.
- Cleaned and joined claims, quote, and telematics tables in SQL and pandas, documenting each rule so reviewers can reproduce the dataset.
- Created a weekly dashboard of quote conversion by channel that an agent-support team now checks every Monday.
- Wrote unit tests and a README for the feature code so a teammate could rerun the renewal model without help from me.
- Tracked model drift on a monthly sample and raised a flag when recall slipped, leading the team to refresh the training data.
- Present results to a pricing manager in short readouts and note clearly where the data was thin or the model might not generalize.

Data Science Intern May 2024 - Aug 2024
Target, Minneapolis, MN

- Analyzed 12 weeks of store traffic data in Python to find days when staffing and demand differed, and shared the pattern with an operations team.
- Compared three simple demand models against a moving-average baseline and recommended the gradient boosting option with a plain written rationale.
- Built a notebook that other interns reused to run the same checks on a new product category in about an hour.
- Checked results with a mentor each week and revised charts after feedback that labels and units were unclear to store managers.
- Presented a final poster to 30 interns and leaders, covering the question, data used, method, and what the findings could not prove.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Sep 2023 - Apr 2024
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Cleaned a survey of 6,500 student responses in R, handling missing values and recoding scales for a professor's education study.
- Fit mixed-effects models in R to compare course outcomes across sections and wrote the methods section of the draft paper.
- Made figures with ggplot2 that were reused in a conference poster and a department newsletter.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Statistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

CERTIFICATIONS

Google Advanced Data Analytics Professional Certificate | IBM Data Science Professional Certificate