



STUDENT ACTIVATION



Sports Data Scientist

Data scientists wear many hats. They are data engineers, analysts, and scientists. **Sports data scientists** build models using copious amounts of data that can make predictions for the sports industry. This could aid in sports recruiting, athlete health, predicting wins, or even judge levels of fan satisfaction. The need for data scientists is on the rise, and the pay is competitive. With a bachelor's degree and some experience in the field, this may be the right career fit for you.

SPORTS DATA SCIENTIST ¹

Sports data scientists answer difficult sports questions by analyzing an incredible amount of data. They use high-level mathematics to build statistical models. These models can then take complex information and turn it into sports performance metrics. A sports data scientist communicates both written and verbal information to appropriate parties to make predictions and improvements in sports. They look constantly for areas of opportunity and work with multiple stakeholders to reach their goal.

IS SPORTS DATA SCIENTIST A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Sports Data Scientist
I like thinking outside the box and using numbers to solve problems.	Sports data scientists are complex problem solvers.
I am athletic or enjoy learning about different sports, sports history, and stats.	Sports Data Scientists have a deep love and understanding of sports. They are storytellers who collect data and build models to help evaluate and improve a team or player's performance or predict outcomes.

¹ <https://www.discoverdatascience.org/industries/sports>

Sports Data Scientist

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



I can easily identify patterns.	Sports data scientists collect and analyze data to look for patterns that can help in the decision-making process.
I am interested in school subjects like math, calculus, and statistics.	Sports data scientists study advanced mathematics and statistics in college.
I enjoy working with others. I like to be a leader.	Sports data scientists are strong communicators. They enjoy working with others and leading teams.

How does this career help me?	How does this career help the world?
Nineteen percent of Americans 18 and older participate in fantasy sports. These games allow the player to act as the owner of a team as well as participate in friendly competition with family, friends, or colleagues. Sports simulation is used in fantasy sports leagues. Sports data scientists build models to help you to feel more invested in the sports you love, and make them more enjoyable.	Sports and data have always gone hand in hand. In 2002, Billy Beane, the Oakland A's general manager, used statistical analysis to recruit lesser-known players and nearly win the World Series with an approach now called "Moneyball." It wasn't long before other teams realized this was the newer and more efficient way to operate.

What are some similar careers?
<p>Actuaries use mathematics and statistics in the world of finance to determine risk and reward.</p> <p>Economists collect and analyze data and research trends to evaluate economic issues.</p> <p>Survey Researchers design and conduct surveys to collect and analyze data.</p>

Here are ways to practice the skills to be a successful **sports data scientist**:

- Volunteer or get a part-time job with a company or community organization that gathers information through surveys and polls.
- Work with a coach of one of your school's athletic teams (or maybe your own!). Together, determine a way that statistics can help improve the overall performance of the team. Work to collect, analyze, and interpret that data and present your findings.
- Discuss your course selection with your guidance counselor, and try to make sure you are taking classes in advanced mathematics and statistics.