

A Day in the Life

What does a typical day in your profession look like, both at the entry level and in your role today?

Each day is different, but centers around using data to make the best decisions possible

Path to the Profession

Level of education/training required for someone to enter your profession.

- Four-year (Bachelor's) Degree
- Graduate (Law, Medical, Master's, Ph.D.) Degree

If a college degree was necessary for you to get a job, what was your major? What skills are needed for your profession if a college degree is not necessary?

A degree was necessary, although perhaps not a PhD. I majored in physics, math, and philosophy.

Were there any internships or other important steps you took to get that 'first job'?

I did an internship for an automotive engineering company, but it ended up being irrelevant to my current career.

Expectations and Fit

What were your expectations for this profession? How is the reality of your profession the same or different from these expectations?

I expected it to be much more exciting than it is. In reality, it is quite boring, and there is a lot of gatekeeping in the field.

What are your favorite parts of the job?

Working with data and building models to understand the data, which can help us make better decisions.

What are the most challenging parts of the job?

I work in tech, so dealing with the elitist attitudes that are common has been tough. Most of my peers are coastal elites, and we often share little in common other than working in tech.

Compensation, Work-Life Balance, and Impact

For your profession, what is the compensation range? (Both entry-level compensation range as well as the compensation range after 5 – 10 years.)

200-500k per year

How is the work-life balance for your profession? Can the work-life balance change over time, as you gain more experience?

It depends on where you work, but it is often quite tough.

I Wish I Knew...

What are some of the things you wish you had known before entering your profession/career field?

I wish I had spent more time learning programming as an undergrad and had backup plans.

Do you have any concrete, helpful suggestions for high school or college students interested in pursuing your profession?

While the arts are noble and worth pursuing, you should *probably* keep them as a hobby and pursue something technical or something with good job prospects and job security.

First generation to First generation Advice

What advice do you have for first-generation students striving to overcome socioeconomic limitations to complete college and realize a successful career?

Understand that you will *probably* have to work much harder than others to achieve less due to being first-gen/low-income, but it will pay off. I have always felt the biggest struggle is an emotional one. When I first started pursuing the sciences, I struggled tremendously with anxiety and impostor syndrome. I found it very difficult, and the coping mechanisms I learned from my community were unhealthy. When I got older, I discovered running and weightlifting, which helped me deal with the hard times in a healthy way.