

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome All-

It's that bittersweet time of year when we cheer on our graduates and prepare to say goodbye. We're so proud of everything you've accomplished and can't wait to see what's next for each of you. Over **160 graduate and undergraduate students** will cross the Commencement stage this weekend- by far the largest class of SDS students to date! Please stay in touch—we love hearing about your challenges, wins, and everything in between!

Speaking of what's next, the University Career Center is gathering data through the **Next Destination Survey** for 2024–2025 grads. If you've recently graduated or will soon, take a few minutes to share your plans—it helps us (and you know we love our data). Bonus: You could win an Amazon gift card! Details are below.

To our incoming students—welcome to the School of Data Science! If you haven't yet had your advising session, please connect with **Deanna Rella (undergraduates)** or **Carly Mahedy (graduate students)**. New undergraduates have already had several welcome events, and the summer **New Student Orientation(undergraduate)** schedule is now posted on the university website. A quick reminder: UNC Charlotte is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) campus. Recommended laptop specs are listed below to help you get started. One final note- once you have your @charlotte.edu email address, you can sign up for **DataCamp- at no cost!** More information below.

And for our continuing students, don't forget to register! We're approaching the time when class availability is finalized, and your timely registration helps us manage capacity and ensure the courses you need are offered. **Avoid the stress later—register now.**

Warm wishes to all,
Josh

Josh Hertel
Director, School of Data Science

Share your SDS story! Have an event, community meet-up, Data competition, job posting, or story idea for the SDS community? Please send your submissions to [Lindsay Lennon](#), SDS Communications and Events Manager.

Program Updates AND CAMPUS NEWS

Student Spotlight: Rich McKnight, Class of 2025!

You're never too experienced to learn something new! Meet **Rich McKnight**, DSBA student with a NASA background who came back to school at UNC Charlotte to ride the data science wave. Find out what excites him about learning alongside the next generation of data gurus as we celebrate his upcoming graduation!



[Read More](#)

Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement will take place at Dale F. Halton Arena on May 9 and 10, 2025, with separate ceremonies for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. Specific times, check-in locations, and other details can be found on the [Commencement website](#), which also includes a helpful FAQ section. Please note that only graduates and authorized personnel may enter the assembly and seating areas. All attendees must follow the University's clear bag policy and present a valid physical or mobile student ID for entry.



New Summer Commencement Ceremony Added

We are excited to announce a new commencement ceremony for our **Summer 2025 Commencement**. The commencement ceremony for Summer 2025 graduates will be held on **Saturday, August 9, 2025**. This will be a **combined ceremony** for both undergraduate and graduate students. Graduates will receive detailed information about the ceremony in **late May**. For more details, visit the



SDS TA Opportunities – Summer and Fall 2025

The School of Data Science hires 25-30 graduate TAs and undergraduate Instructional Assistants/Graders each semester. These are paid positions, available exclusively to students enrolled in SDS programs. For more details on eligibility and how to apply, visit your program's website under the "Current Students" tab:

- [DSBA Graduate Assistantships](#)
- [HIA Graduate Assistantships](#)
- [Data Science Undergrad Student Employment](#)



Find the full [SDS Calendar of Events](#) on the SDS website.

- **May 9:** Bachelor's Commencement (CCI)
- **May 10:** Master's and Graduate Certificate Commencement
- **May 26:** Memorial Day (No Classes)
- **May 27:** First Day of Summer Session Classes
- **May 28:** [Last Day to Add or Drop @11:59 pm- summer first half term](#)
- **May 28:** Payment Due Date/cancellation for nonpayment for the summer first half



Find the full [SDS Calendar of Events](#) on the program website.

[Triangle Symposium on Statistics and Data Science \(TSSDS\): May 12–13, 2025, North Carolina State University](#)

The inaugural Triangle Symposium on Statistics and Data Science (TSSDS) will take place on May 12-13, 2025, at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. This event will showcase the work of local faculty, students, and researchers while featuring top experts from across the country and beyond. The program includes two plenary talks, four invited sessions, two rapid talk sessions, and a poster session. Those interested in participating can fill out the [Google form](#) on the [conference website](#). Travel support is available for graduate students, postdocs, and early-career researchers presenting posters.

[More Information](#)

State of Tech EXPONENTIAL: May 14–15, 2025, Triangle, NC

Join NC TECH's annual content-driven conference, State of Tech EXPONENTIAL, for two days of innovation, insight, and networking. The event features inspiring keynotes from leading tech voices, interactive breakout sessions, a dynamic tech expo, a high-energy startup showcase, and more. Featured Speakers Include: **Matt Lyleston**, CIO, Technology Platforms – IBM; **Simon Amaxopulos**, Executive & Professional Risk Solutions – Management Liability & Cyber Broker, USI; **Scott Wingo**, CEO & Co-Founder – [ReFiBuy.ai](#).



Don't miss this opportunity to connect with North Carolina's tech community and explore what's next in the world of technology.

[More Information](#)

HIMSS Annual Conference: October 13–14, 2025, NCSU McKimmon Center

Join healthcare IT professionals, leaders, and innovators from across the region for insightful sessions, networking opportunities, and industry updates. Explore new technologies, share best practices, and connect with peers.



Early registration is available until August 16, 2025.

The North Carolina Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (NC HIMSS) is dedicated to improving healthcare for North Carolinians through the power of information and technology.

[Register Now](#)



From the UNC Charlotte Career Center:



The UNC Charlotte Career Center empowers students and alumni through career preparation, real-world experiences, and partnerships with faculty, staff, and employers. As trusted coaches, the center connects academic learning with professional development to help students become marketable and well-prepared.

- WE NEED YOUR DATA!! New Graduates – Take the Next Destination Survey . If you graduated in August 2024, December 2024, or are graduating in May 2025, please complete the Next Destination Survey. Your feedback is essential in helping UNC Charlotte better understand and support our graduates' career and educational paths. The survey takes just a few minutes to complete, and **BONUS: You could win a \$20.00 Amazon gift card.** Winners will be chosen at random from the completed submissions.

Enter to Win an Amazon Gift Card!

- Academic Credit for Undergraduate Internships: Undergraduate students at UNC Charlotte can earn academic credit for internships through their major or minor department, or the Career Center's UCOL 3410 course if departmental credit isn't available. Open to juniors and seniors, offers 1–3 Pass/No Credit hours based on internship length, and must be approved before the add/drop deadline. Students may earn up to 6 total credits. To apply, meet with a career coach, secure an internship, consult your advisor, and apply via the Internship Experience Portal. For questions, contact Amy Browns at experiential-ed@charlotte.edu. Be sure to review summer tuition rates and any liability insurance requirements. [Read More Here!](#)

From the Reynolds Center for Graduate Life and Learning:



THOMAS L. REYNOLDS

CENTER FOR GRADUATE LIFE & LEARNING

The Center for Graduate Life and Learning (CGLL) supports the success of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Their initiatives include employer-led workshops, peer mentoring, fellowships, competitions, experiential learning, and credit-bearing electives. Check out their full calendar of events and resources for Charlotte's graduate student and postdoc community. [From the CGLL Grad Weekly Newsletter:](#)

- **Funding Opportunities – Apply Today!** \$300 paid opportunity in [STEM communication training](#), open to all grad students, in all disciplines. The yearlong program is offered by the CGLL and launched this August, and it is part of an NSF-funded study (IRB-24-0530). Participants will gain practical tools to explain complex ideas to broader audiences clearly. made it feel doable." – 2024–25 participant. Find out about more training and professional development opportunities in the CGLL’s weekly newsletter: Grad Weekly.



New Graduate Program Director for DSBA



We’re pleased to share a leadership update for the DSBA graduate program. Effective July 1, a new faculty member will assume the role of Graduate Program Director of the Data Science and Business Analytics graduate program. Since 2020, [Dr. SungJune Park](#) has provided steady and thoughtful leadership in this position. Over the past five years, he has overseen key areas including curriculum revisions, program outcome evaluations, and admissions processes. His primary focus has been on strategically designing and implementing the graduate program’s curriculum. Earlier this spring, Dr. Park decided to return to a full-time faculty role.

We are excited to announce that [Dr. Mirsad Hadzikadic](#) will step into the DSBA Graduate Program Director role starting in July. More details to come—stay tuned!



SDS Elections: Faculty Governance



We are pleased to share the SDS Faculty President-Elect election results and provide the final committee assignments for the upcoming academic year. As a reminder, voting for the President-Elect was limited to core SDS faculty, and nominees were required to be from the College of Health and Human Services. Many thanks to Drs. Tianca Crocker, Abbey Fenwick, and George Shaw for their willingness to serve and for standing as candidates. We also would like to thank [Dr. Harish Cherukuri](#), our current Faculty President, for administering the election, and to the 16 of 22 eligible core faculty who participated in the vote.

Following the ballot count, [Dr. George Shaw](#) received the most votes (7) and has been elected as the SDS Faculty President-Elect for 2025–26. He will also serve as the SDS representative on the University Faculty Council during the coming year. Congratulations to Dr. Shaw!



Association of Data Science

The Association of Data Science at UNC Charlotte builds a vibrant community for undergraduate students interested in data science. Open to all majors, the organization hosts events, workshops, and networking opportunities to support academic, personal, and professional growth while promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. [Learn more and get involved TODAY!](#)

ADS Mentorship Program – Interested in

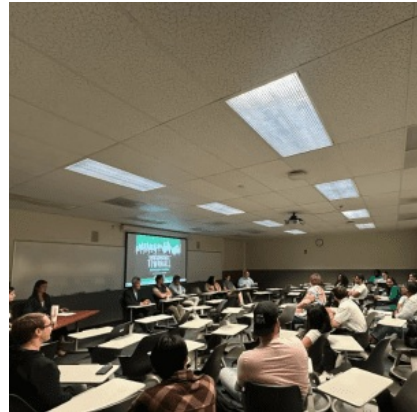
becoming a mentor?

The ADS Mentorship Program connects upperclassmen college students and graduate students with freshman mentees to support their academic, personal, and professional growth. As a mentor, you will serve as a guide, role model, and resource for one or more undergraduates navigating college life.

[Apply Now!](#)

ADS Hosts Open Town Hall with SDS Leadership

Students at the School of Data Science recently convened a town hall with faculty and leadership to discuss program improvements, suggesting changes to coursework and resources. Looking ahead, the Association for Data Science student government outlined ambitious goals for the upcoming year, including mentorship programs, career readiness initiatives, and enhanced technical training.



[Read More](#)

Graduate Student Council

The School of Data Science Graduate Student Council represents students in the DSBA and HIAN programs. It organizes events, programs, and meetups to build community and professional connections. The council is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that supports students' academic and career development. *[Get engaged TODAY!](#)*

[New Graduate Student Council Elects!](#)

We are excited to introduce the newly elected members of the SDS Student Council for the 2025-26 academic year!

- President: Paige Pickett
- Vice President: Larissa Decker
- Secretary: Sunnya Hadavi
- Marketing Officer: Finn McKee
- HIA Representative: Ronya Alhumaidi

[Graduate & Professional Student Government \(GPSG\) at UNC Charlotte](#)

The Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG) is the official representative body for over 5,400 graduate and professional students at UNC



Charlotte. It advocates for student needs, supports over 35 registered Graduate Student Organizations, and funds student research travel. Each organization has voting rights in the GPSG Senate, an open forum for student concerns and initiatives. Since 1999, GPSG has played a key role in enhancing graduate students' academic, social, and professional lives. All students are welcome to get involved or subscribe to their [newsletter](#).

Student Government Association (SGA) at UNC Charlotte



The Student Government Association (SGA) is the official voice of the undergraduate student body at UNC Charlotte. Since 1946, SGA has represented student interests, advocated for policy improvements, and worked to enhance campus life through leadership and collaboration. SGA funding is available to undergraduate students or sports clubs. Undergraduate student organizations can apply for funding through [Niner Engage](#), following the **Financial Procedures Act** and meeting all deadlines. Applications must be submitted at least 6 weeks before an event. Refer to the 2025-26 Grant

and Travel Grant timelines for complete details. [Stay connected and follow SGA for the latest updates and opportunities!](#)



*In each issue, we highlight valuable resources available to the campus community, such as health services, advising, counseling, and more. If you know of a great resource you'd like us to feature in an upcoming issue, please email **Lindsay Lennon** at lindsay.lennon@charlotte.edu, and we'll include it in the next newsletter!*

Planning to Take Summer Courses? Here's What You Need to Know



If you plan to take summer courses at UNC Charlotte, please note that the add/drop deadline is each session's second day of class. Students are limited to seven credit hours at any one time. If

you wish to enroll in more than seven hours, you must submit an academic petition for a course overload; otherwise, you risk being dropped from the University.

Approval is required if you are taking a summer course at another institution to transfer the credit back to Charlotte. You cannot take a course elsewhere if you have already attempted it at Charlotte and received a letter grade (withdrawals do not count) or are in your final 30 credit hours of your degree program. To transfer credit, you must first enroll at the other institution, submit a [transient study petition](#) through your Charlotte Banner account, complete the course with a grade of C or better, and request that an official transcript be sent to Charlotte once your grade is posted. Transferred courses typically appear on your UNC Charlotte transcript within two to three weeks after your transcript is received.

FREE DataCamp Access for NEW and Continuing SDS Students

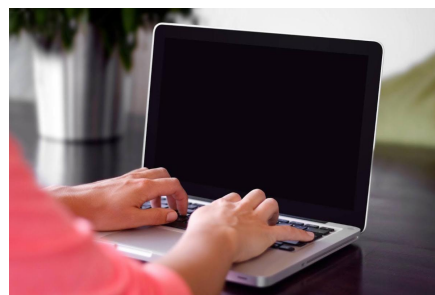


All SDS students (HIA, DSBA Sports Analytics, Data Science) with an active *Ninernet profile*, including newly admitted and currently enrolled students, now have free access to [DataCamp](#) through a partnership with the School of Data Science and College of Computing and Informatics. DataCamp offers a wide range of courses covering essential data science skills, with custom tracks in SDS R Bootcamp and SDS Python Bootcamp designed specifically for SDS students.

[Request access!](#)

Laptop Requirements

For new and continuing students, this is a gentle reminder that all undergraduate and graduate students must have a personal laptop computer to support their college experience. While the campus does have resources for emergency loaners, they are time-limited and temporary by design. You will need access to a personal device. Please visit the OneIt website for [recommended minimum specifications](#).



Featured UNC Charlotte Student Resources



- **Free Legal Help:** [UNC Charlotte Student Legal Services \(SLS\)](#) offers free legal advice, representation for some cases, and resources for all enrolled students (funded by student activity fees).
- **Military Support:** [Veterans Services](#) assists veterans and military-affiliated students with GI Bill benefits, offers a study lounge, and helps transition to college life.
- **Graduate Student Advocate (Graduate Students Only):** The [University Ombuds](#) provides confidential, informal support for graduate students facing workplace issues. They help prevent problems from escalating and find

Data Science and Health Analytics In The NEWS



Subscribe to the ADSA newsletter today! The Academic Data Science Alliance (ADSA) is a professional association of data science and AI initiatives in higher education. Its community includes educators, researchers, and leaders

who promote responsible, data-driven practices in teaching and research. ADSA also publishes a monthly newsletter featuring news, grants, events, and job opportunities. Learn more at academicdatascience.org.

Colby Ford and Dan Janies' Research Published in *eBioMedicine* (a *Lancet* title)

New research by Dr. Colby Ford and Dr. Dan Janies of UNC Charlotte, in collaboration with MIT, has been published in *eBioMedicine* (a *Lancet* title), revealing that the H5N1 virus is quietly evolving in ways that could make it more difficult for the human immune system to fight. While the virus has not yet adapted to spread easily between humans, the study shows that once it does, it may already carry mutations that reduce the effectiveness of vaccines and immunity from related strains. The researchers used AI-driven protein modeling and biophysical simulations to analyze over 1,800 H5 virus protein complexes and their interactions with neutralizing antibodies. Their findings serve as a data-driven early warning of the potential threat H5N1 poses if human-to-human transmission becomes efficient. (From ADSA Data Science Community Newsletter April 2025)



Some Government Data Could be Lost Forever

Data that is only accessible through Data Use Agreements from the NIH covering repositories full of "cancer imagery, Alzheimer's disease research, sleep studies, HIV databases, and COVID-19 vaccination and mortality data" could be lost forever (full list at [404](#)). The repositories carry a banner suggesting they are being reviewed and could be marked for deletion. The firings at the NIH have not been reversed. The US Supreme Court let them stand but did not rule on their lawfulness, forcing the matter through a longer arbitration process that could take 6+ months. In the meantime, the petabytes of data are at risk. Because the data is not widely

available and contains protected HIPAA information, it cannot as easily be “rescued” as less sensitive, publicly available data. ([From ADSA Data Science Community Newsletter April 2025](#))

Jobs, Fellowships, AND INTERNSHIPS

Resume Approval with Hire-A-Niner- To apply for jobs via Hire-A-Niner, you must upload your resume through the Hire-A-Niner system. The first resume uploaded to the system must be approved by the University Career Center. This approval process can take up to 48 business hours and is a standard policy, so no approval exceptions will be made for upcoming job or interview deadlines.



Don't wait until the last minute! For more information on resume approval, please visit:

- [Career Center Policies](#)
- [Resume Approval Checklist](#)

Featured JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS



Below is a current listing of postings shared with the SDS team or posted on the [Career Center's Hire-a-Niner site](#). If you are interested in sharing a position posting, you can email the information directly to Joshua Hertel (jhertel@charlotte.edu) or access the full UNC Charlotte community through the Career Center- See Below.

**Open Full-Time Software Engineer Positions
through Wells Fargo's Neurodiversity Program**

Wells Fargo is hiring full-time Software Engineers through its award-winning Neurodiversity Program in Charlotte, NC, with positions starting in July 2025. This inclusive program replaces traditional interviews with skills-based evaluations and provides live training, coaching, and peer support. Candidates with at least 2 years of experience—whether through work, education, military service, internships, or personal projects—and skills in HTML, Java, or CSS are encouraged to apply, even if this would be their first paid role or they typically wouldn't consider a position labeled "senior." Two roles are available: Software Engineer and Senior Software Engineer; applicants should apply based on their skills, not the job title. Engineers will work on developing digital experiences using Adobe tools such as AEM. An [information session will be held on May 8 from 12:30–1:30 PM EST](#), and applications are due by May 17. Learn more and apply: [Software Engineer](#) | [Senior Software Engineer](#). Watch the program [video here](#).

Tread Athletics Sports Science Data Internship, Summer 2025

Tread Athletics just posted a Sports Science Data Internship for Summer 2025—and the application deadline is fast approaching: [Tread Athletics Internship Info](#). This highly hands-on opportunity is ideal for UNC Charlotte students interested in sports science, biomechanics, and performance analysis. Interns will work directly with elite-level baseball pitchers, using tools like VALD force plates and InBody testing equipment to collect and analyze real-time movement and strength data. Responsibilities include supporting athlete readiness assessments and collaborating on tech integration and scheduling. The fast-paced and detail-oriented environment offers a behind-the-scenes look at how data informs high-performance coaching.

Apply here!

Internships

- [2025 Launch Program: Data Science Product Management Intern, Red Ventures](#)-Fort Mill, SC (Hybrid)
- [CRM Summer Intern, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation](#) - Charlotte, NC (On-site)
- [Data Analytics Job Training Program, Year Up United](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Data Analyst and Implementation Intern, RCN Capital](#) - Charlotte, NC



Jobs

- [VP, Data and Analytics Engineering, LPL Financial](#), Fort Mill, SC (On-site)
- [Lead Data Strategist, CapTech](#)- Charlotte, NC (Hybrid)
- [Data Strategy, Slalom](#)- Charlotte, NC
- [Data and Analytics Consultant, SEI](#)- Charlotte, NC (On-site)
- [Data Scientist, Ahold Delhaize USA](#)- Salisbury, NC (Hybrid)



Alumni Recruitment: UNC Charlotte's Career Center

Interested in recruiting talented UNC Charlotte students and graduates? We remind you that as an alumni, Hire-A-Niner is still available to you- as an employer.

Here's what you can do:

- **Post jobs and internships:** Reach a wide range of students, or target specifically by major (like Data Science) or program level (graduate/undergraduate).
- **Get featured in the School of Data Science (SDS) newsletter:** Let us know when you post a relevant job, and we'll promote it to SDS students. Email Josh Hertel - at jhertel@charlotte.edu to share postings.

Ready to get started? Visit <https://hireaniner.charlotte.edu/> to set up your free Hire-A-Niner employer account. It's a quick and easy process. **Questions?** Contact our Employer Engagement Team at recruit@charlotte.edu in the Career Center. We're happy to help and discuss other recruitment opportunities.





Try email marketing for free today!