

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Dear SDS Students,

I hope you've all been enjoying a fantastic summer! It's hard to believe the fall semester is already here. This semester, we're thrilled to welcome nearly 900 new and returning students to our undergraduate and graduate programs. We're especially excited to celebrate two major milestones: the inaugural class of our [Doctoral Program in Data Science](#) and the launch of the [Bachelor of Science in Sports Analytics](#).



We're also committed to strengthening connections between our students and the Charlotte community through research, learning, and industry engagement. Our [SDS Professional Seminar Series](#) kicks off Tuesday, August 26, at 4:00 p.m., featuring Wells Fargo sharing details about their externship program. This is the first in a series of weekly talks where data scientists from diverse industries will share their expertise and career insights. Additionally, we're expanding our industry partnerships with three new members joining our [Industry Advisory Board](#) this fall, helping us deepen collaborations across the data science ecosystem. Please save the date for our October 16th Advisory Board Meeting. We send out more information, but we have tentatively scheduled an open networking session with the board for SDS Students.

In this edition of the newsletter, you'll find links to campus and community events across the region, designed to connect you with the vibrant community supporting your academic journey. Upcoming highlights include the STEM Fair on Thursday, September 11, and the Fall Career and Internship Fair 2025 on Friday, September 12. Don't wait to start preparing—schedule a resume review and plan to attend! Finally, we have an SDS Kickoff event to welcome all SDS students this Friday. You can pick up SDS T-shirts and swag. Check out the RSVP details for the SDS Kickoff event below.

Here's to a fantastic semester- best of luck to all of you.

Josh Hertel

Director, School of Data Science

P.S.- For Alumni - the SDS undergraduate Association of Data Science and the Graduate Student Government Organization are exploring a possible fall alumni networking event. They are seeking volunteers to assist. Please let me know if you are interested, and I will connect you with their officers.



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

Question Regarding Your Fall Tuition Bill (Graduate Students)



Students in the DSBA and HIAN programs are charged a School-Based Tuition Increment (SBTI) each term, depending on enrolled credit hours. Students enrolled in both a certificate and an MS program may be billed for the increment twice. Carly Mahedy has reviewed student records and requested a waiver for one of the increments for affected students. Please review your bill carefully. If you see an error, first contact Student Accounts to confirm the charge. Once confirmed, reach out to Carly Mahedy to request a waiver. For dual-degree students, one increment per term can be waived. Waivers are ideally asked during registration. Both increments may stay on your account until the add/drop deadline, but your registration will not be dropped for nonpayment of the waived amount. Be sure to pay your bill, minus one increment, by the payment deadline. For more information on financial aid, scholarships, assistantships, or no-interest payment plans, visit your program's Admissions/Financial Aid webpage.

Tottenham Hotspit F.C. and SDS's Sports

Analytics Program Partnership



Tottenham Hotspur F.C. (one of the most well known soccer clubs in the world) and Charlotte's Sports Analytics Program are thrilled to announce a fall semester partnership. Four CLT Graduate Students will be selected to participate in a 3-month analytical project assigned to them by Tottenham's Analytics Team. At the end of the semester, students will be invited to Tottenham's Headquarters in London to present their project to Tottenham's Analytics Team!

Grad Students who are interested in applying must apply by Thursday, August 21st, 2025.

Note: Students must confirm with their graduate department that they will get credit hours for this project. Students that are selected must sign an NDA produced by Tottenham due to the sensitive player data that they will be given. Interviews will be conducted the week of 8/25. Selections will also be made by the end of that week. Please read the qualifications carefully:

Qualifications:

- Must be currently enrolled in a CLT Graduate Program
- Must have a very strong knowledge of soccer
- Must be available to work 6-9 hours per week
- Strong analytical skills and proficiency in data analysis software (e.g., Excel, R, Python).
- Familiarity with data visualization tools (e.g., Tableau and Power BI).
- Able to work in a team environment and share information effectively

If you have any questions, please email John Tobias (UNC-Charlotte's Sports Analytics Program Director) at jtobias@charlotte.edu.

Important DATES

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

- August 22: [Data Science Kick-Off Event](#)
- August 25: Last day to add/drop course
- August 26: Second cancellation for non-payment
- September 1: Labor Day – No Classes

Data Science Kickoff

Join us for the School of [Data Science's 3rd Annual Data Science Kickoff](#) — a fun and informative event to kick off the semester! Free snacks & t-shirts for all DTSC & SPOA students! Open to all SDS students - please come and meet the faculty and staff!

THE SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE'S 3RD ANNUAL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

11 AM - 1 PM

COLVARD SOUTH, FIRST FLOOR

FREE T-SHIRTS & SNACKS FOR ALL DTSC & SPOA STUDENTS!

DATA SCIENCE

KICKOFF

For more information, please visit:

ADS ASSOCIATION OF DATA SCIENCE

SA CHARLESTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Register Now!

Tuesday Professional Seminars Begin August 26th at 4:00 pm!

Each semester, the SDS is pleased to welcome industry professionals and business partners to meet face-to-face with our students. Seminars are held at the Dubois Center from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays. This semester, we will welcome

representatives from Wells Fargo, SAS, Honeywell, McKinsey, and many other notable companies. [Find the full list of seminars and Register Here !](#)

Introduction to the Wells Fargo Externship Program | Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Wells Fargo's Corporate Risk Externship Program offers full-time students—including undergraduate seniors, master's, and Ph.D. candidates. This seminar is a great opportunity to gain insight into Wells Fargo and connect directly with professionals from the company.

IN-PERSON EVENT

TUESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

WELLS FARGO

Sponsored by:

Shelley Rochester
BUSINESS EXECUTION MANAGER – EXTERN PROGRAM MANAGER

Lyndsay Koch
EARLY CAREER SENIOR RECRUITER AND QUANT PROGRAM MANAGER

Jake Brulato
2024 EXTERN, DATA MANAGEMENT ANALYST

Avantika Priya
SENIOR LEAD BUSINESS EXECUTION CONSULTANT
INDEPENDENT TESTING & VALIDATION

Introduction to the Wells Fargo Externship Program

August 26, 2025

For more information, please visit:

Responsible AI, AI Bias, and Fairness, and or AI Governance | Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Vrushali Sawant, DSBA alumnus and Data Scientist with SAS, explores the foundational principles and emerging challenges in building AI systems that are not only powerful but also trustworthy, fair, and ethically aligned.

IN-PERSON EVENT

TUESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

SAS

Sponsored by:

Vrushali Sawant
DATA SCIENTIST
SAS

Trustworthy AI: Governance, Fairness, and Ethics in Practice

September 2, 2025

For more information, please visit:

**ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:
Interview Tips for Positions in the U.S.**



Thursday, August 28: [Robin Boswell](#), from the Belk College of Business, is offering a special session tailored for international students. This workshop will discuss common challenges candidates face when interviewing in their non-native language or culture. In particular, it will cover tips and strategies specific to the U.S. interview process.



CCI Employer Events

[Ally - Employer in the Foyer](#)

Wednesday, August 27, 11 am-2 pm, Woodward Lawn

Ally will host a drop-in table at the NinerByte event where students can learn about the company and get professional development feedback. No appointment necessary.

[A Day in the Life of a Software Engineer w/ Principal Financial Group](#)

Wednesday, August 27, 4pm-5pm, Woodward 335

Network with representatives from Principal Financial Group to learn how to position yourself for success in software and data engineering internships and full-time roles. This event is open to all undergraduate CCI majors.

[Lunch & Learn: Henry Schein](#)

Tuesday, September 2, 11:30pm, Woodward 335

Join Henry Schein for a lunch and learn to discover how the company is shaping the future of healthcare. Explore career paths in business, sales, and operations, and learn how you can grow your career while making a real impact at a Fortune 500 company. [RSVP Required by August 28](#)

[A Day in the Life of a Cybersecurity Analyst with TIAA](#)

Wednesday, September 3, 4pm-5pm, Woodward 335

Come learn and network with Tarik Hanif, TIAA. Tarik works on our network engineering team and will discuss how he prepared for his current role, his day in the life as a network engineer, and briefly discuss some of the early talent programs at TIAA.

Community Events– Meet–Ups, Hackathons, Conferences, etc.

Women in Data: Join the 2025 SpaceAware Datathon!

Team registration for the 2025 SpaceAware Datathon is officially OPEN! Grab your data crew (2–5 people), dive into the Datathon Overview, and get Real-world, hands-on experience!

SAS Hackathon

Join curious minds around the world for the 2025 SAS Hackathon, running from **Sept. 15 – Oct. 10**. Learn more & register (Registration closes August 31, 2025)

NC TECH for Brews + Bytes in Charlotte

Join NC TECH for Brews + Bytes in Charlotte on **Tuesday, August 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at Free Range Brewing**. This casual networking event is a great opportunity to connect with others in the NC TECH community. Registration is free for both members and non-members, but advance registration is required.

2025 Summit for Women in Tech – September 17–18, Wilmington, NC

Join NC TECH and presenting sponsor Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina for the sixth annual *Summit for Women in Tech*, a destination-style event designed to inspire, connect, and empower women at all stages of their tech careers. Registration is now open!

Fleurix- Celebrate women+ in technology - October 13, 2025, Fort Mill, SC

Fleurix is a community-driven initiative dedicated to increasing the number of women+ thriving in tech careers by providing accessible resources, inclusive events, and a strong sense of belonging. Apply to Speak or Register to Attend.

New Student Resources

- Laptop Policy - Bring Your Own Device (BYOD): All students are required to have a personal laptop (PC or Mac).
- Niner Course Pack: Enrollment is automatic and students are billed \$20 per credit hour per term. You can opt-out for Fall 2025 between July 20 and August 30.
- Parking on Campus: Parking and Transportation Services (PATS) is your one-stop shop for parking and campus transportation.
- Student Health Insurance: Unless a waiver is completed, students will be automatically enrolled and billed for Student Blue coverage on their tuition account. Starting this year, students can select either the Value or Premium health insurance plans.

From the UNC Charlotte Career Center: Fall 2025 Career Fairs

- STEM Fair: Thursday, September 11, 2025, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
- Fall Career and Internship Fair: Friday, September 12, 2025, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
- Actuarial Science Career Fair: Friday, September 26, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Financial Services Career Fair: Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 pm
- Part Time Job Fair: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 11:00 - 2:00 pm

[Check Full Calendar of Workshops](#)



Transitions: Mirsad Hadzikadic Named New GPD for DSBA

Mirsad Hadzikadic has been appointed Graduate Program Director (GPD) for the Data Science and Business Analytics (DSBA) program at UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science. In this role, he provides leadership within the School's team of program directors, who guide each undergraduate and graduate program. Program directors ensure academic quality, support student success, and advance the School's mission by overseeing admissions, monitoring student progress, advising on curriculum, and mentoring students throughout their academic journey. His research focuses on complex adaptive systems, simulation and modeling, health informatics, population health, data mining, and cognitive science/neuroeconomics. Dr. Hadzikadic joins a dedicated group of program directors committed to providing high-quality education and mentorship across the School of Data Science.



Meet the SDS Program Directors

Sports Analytics (B.S.)

Abbey Thomas Fenwick: Program Director for Curriculum; Associate Professor, Applied Physiology, Health, and Clinical Sciences

- Expert in applied physiology with research in human performance and sports analytics.
- ✉ afenwick@charlotte.edu



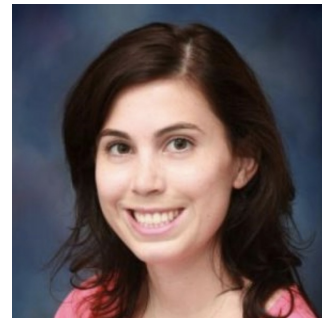
John Tobias: Program Director for Admissions and Engagement

- Lecturer, Sports Analytics Industry professional with experience in sports analytics and applied statistics.
- ✉ jtobias@charlotte.edu

Data Science (B.S.)

Shannon Reid: Undergraduate Program Director for Curriculum; Associate Professor, Criminal Justice & Criminology

- Research focused on criminal justice, youth crime, and applications of data science in social sciences.
- ✉ s.reid@charlotte.edu



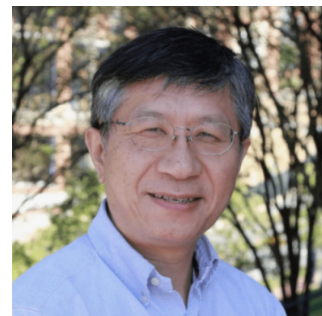
Marco Scipioni: Undergraduate Program Director for Admissions and Engagement; Teaching Associate Professor, School of Data Science

- Specializes in teaching applied data science with expertise in student engagement and curriculum design.
- ✉ [mscipion@charlotte.edu](mailto:m SCIPIONI@charlotte.edu)

Health Informatics and Analytics (M.S.)

Yaorong Ge: Graduate Program Director; Professor, Health Informatics and Analytics

- Research interests include biomedical informatics, health data systems, and AI applications in healthcare.
- ✉ yge@charlotte.edu



Data Science and Business Analytics (M.S.)



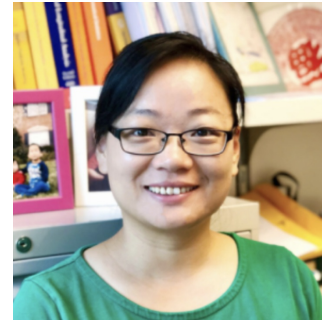
Mirsad Hadzikadic: Graduate Program Director; Director, Complex Systems Institute; Professor, DSBA

- Founding director of the Complex Systems Institute, with expertise in AI, complex adaptive systems, and data science leadership.
- ✉ mirsad@charlotte.edu

Data Science (Ph.D.)

Shaoyu Li: Graduate Program Director; Associate Professor of Statistics, Mathematics, and Statistics

- Statistician with research in probability, statistical modeling, and applications of data science.
- ✉ sli23@charlotte.edu



New Core Faculty Join the School of Data Science



Dr. Jason Windett joins SDS from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences, where he served as Research Director and Associate Director of the Public Policy Doctoral Program. Last year, he was also appointed Research Director for SDS. His research focuses on representation in American politics, especially on state politics, the courts, and the intersection of gender and politics. Previously, Dr. Windett has taught Modeling and

Society (DTSC 2301/2302), as well as courses in public policy, state and local politics, gender and politics, and research methods. This spring, he will co-teach Data and Society (DTSC 1301/1302).

Dr. Rajib Paul joins the School from the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health at the College of Health and Human Services. He is a Professor of Biostatistics and has been a long-standing affiliated faculty member of SDS and the Center for Computational Intelligence to Predict Health & Environmental Risks (CIPHER). His research focuses on social determinants of health, health equity, infectious diseases, and injury prevention, supported by CDC, NIH, NSF, and other agencies. This fall, he will teach Problem-Solving in Healthcare Analytics (HCIP 6250) and mentor graduate students and junior faculty across disciplines.



Welcome Back: Dr. Christopher Dong and Lexi

Barrett



Dr. Christopher Dong (M.S., Computer Science, UNC Charlotte) is a Data Scientist/ML Engineer at Sunbelt Tools, specializing in machine learning solutions, model governance, and NLP applications. He brings extensive industry experience from roles at The Hartford and Sunbelt Tools. Dr. Dong previously taught *Modeling and Society (DTSC 2301/2302)* and will teach *Predictive Analytics and Their Implications (DTSC 3601/3602)* this fall.

Alexi Barrett (M.S., Economics, UNC Charlotte) returns to teach *Data and Society (DTSC 1301/1302)*. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy, with a focus on energy policy and sustainable behavior. Her research focuses on electric vehicle charging tariffs and carbon intensity, examining how policies affect consumer behavior. Lexi also holds bachelor's degrees in Economics, International Business, and German.



Welcome New SDS Industry Advisory Board Members



Dr. Karen Hegarty leads AI and Innovation at **Novant Health**, directing the Institute for Innovation and AI. She shapes enterprise-wide AI strategies to improve clinical care, streamline operations, and transform the patient experience. She holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and a B.S. from Western New England University.

Maggie Mebane is Data Science Manager at **The Hartford**, overseeing advanced analytics initiatives in property and casualty insurance. With a strong background in geospatial and telemetry data, Maggie specializes in applied machine learning and data-driven risk modeling. She earned her M.S. in Data Science and Business Analytics from UNC Charlotte and a B.A. in Psychology from Elon University.



Dan Reaume is Vice President of Commercial Data and Analytics at **Honeywell**, leading enterprise-wide advanced analytics and generative AI initiatives. With over 28 years of experience across global companies, Dan brings deep expertise in operations research, machine learning, and strategic data applications. He holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as an M.A.Sc. in Technology Management from the University of Waterloo.

Student Government

NEWS

Student Government News

Undergraduate Students:

- **Association of Data Science:** From hands-on workshops to guest speaker sessions and career development events, ADS has something for everyone. Our first meeting of the semester will be held on August 25 at 6PM in Woodward 254! **Learn more and get involved TODAY!**
- **Student Government Association (SGA) at UNC Charlotte:** SGA offers funding for student organizations and sports clubs through Niner Engage, following the Financial Procedures Act. Funding applications must be submitted at least 6 weeks before an event. **Stay connected and follow SGA for the latest updates and opportunities!**

Graduate Students:

- **SDS Graduate Student Council:** Keep an eye out for our first event announcement coming soon, and be sure to mark your calendars.
- **Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG) at UNC Charlotte:** GPSG enhances the academic, social, and professional experience of graduate students. **Subscribe to their newsletter here!**

Jobs, Fellowships, 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.

School of Data Science Marketing Assistantship

The SDS is hiring! We are seeking a data science student (undergraduate or graduate) to work 20 hours per week, starting as early as September 1st. Duties include social media management, newsletter creation, graphic design, and website maintenance. If interested, please email your resume to Lindsay Mongillo at lindsay.lennon@charlotte.edu. Applicants must be enrolled in an SDS program. Please submit your resume by Noon on Thursday, August 21, 2025.



Microsoft AI Development Acceleration Program (MAIDAP) – Now Hiring!



Microsoft

- [Applied Scientist I - Redmond, WA](#)
- [Applied Scientist I - Cambridge, MA](#)
- [Software Engineer I - Redmond, WA](#)
- [Applied Scientist II - Redmond, WA](#)
- [Applied Scientist II - Cambridge, MA](#) (Additional roles coming soon – search keyword *MAIDAP* on Microsoft Careers.) [Learn more about MAIDAP HERE.](#)

USAA – Summer 2026 Summer Internship Program

USAA offers a 10-week summer internship from May 28 through August 8, with limited spaces and high competition, so early applications are encouraged. Internship recruiting happens in two main cycles each year: Fall (August–November) and Spring (January–March). [Check out full-time positions HERE.](#)

Explore Data & Analytics Opportunities at SEI



Students interested in consulting and data-driven careers are encouraged to explore opportunities with [SEI](#), a leading business and technology consulting firm. The Charlotte office is currently [hiring for a Data & Analytics Consultant](#). To explore SEI's capabilities and projects in the data space, visit the [Data & Analytics @SEI homepage](#).

TTX Company — North America's Railcar Pooling Leader

TTX Company, headquartered in Charlotte, NC, provides shared railcar solutions across North America. [They have a variety of career opportunities open for Analysts, Data Engineers, and more.](#)



Internships

- [2026 Summer Intern - Information Technology, Equitable](#) - Charlotte, NC

- [Intern/Co-op, Duke Energy](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Intern, IT - Operations Research and Data Science \(Summer 2026\), Delta Air Lines](#) - Atlanta, GA
- [2026 Analytics and Data Summer Internship, Wells Fargo](#) - Charlotte, NC

Jobs

- [Coordinator, NASCAR](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Financial Rate Specialist, Parker Poe](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Business Analyst, Accenture Federal Services](#) - Chantilly, VA
- [Data Analyst, Accenture Federal Services](#) - Falls Church, VA
- [Management and Program Analyst, Defense Logistics Agency](#) - Fayetteville, NC
- [Business Operations Analyst, UNC Health](#) - Lenoir, NC

Kind Reminder:

Make sure to regularly check the company career pages – it's one of the best ways to catch new opportunities as soon as they're posted. Charlotte is home to many well-known employers across different industries, including **financial services** such as [Bank of America](#), [Truist](#), and [Ally Financial](#); **healthcare providers** like [Atrium Health](#) and [Novant Health](#); and **energy and technology** companies such as [Duke Energy](#) and [Honeywell](#).

[CHECK HIRE-A-NINER FOR ADDITIONAL LISTINGS](#)

Job Search Resources for Data Science and Analytics:

Jobs & Internship Sites

- [Hire-A-Niner: hireaniner.charlotte.edu](http://hireaniner.charlotte.edu)
- [Dice.com: www.dice.com/jobs](http://www.dice.com/jobs)
- [The Muse: www.themuse.com](http://www.themuse.com)
- [Data Jobs: datajobs.com](http://datajobs.com)
- [Hire Tech Ladies: www.hiretechladies.com](http://www.hiretechladies.com)
- [Uncubed: uncubed.com](http://uncubed.com)
- [Crunchboard: crunchboard.com/jobs](http://crunchboard.com/jobs)
- [Just Tech Jobs: justtechjobs.com](http://justtechjobs.com)
- [Wellfound \(tech startup jobs\): wellfound.com/jobs](http://wellfound.com/jobs)
- [Product Hunt: producthunt.com/jobs](http://producthunt.com/jobs)
- [NCTECH Job Board: https://ourmembers.nctech.org/job](https://ourmembers.nctech.org/job)



Resources for International Students

- [H1-B Employer Data Hub: uscis.gov/h-1b-data-hub](http://uscis.gov/h-1b-data-hub)
- [MyVisaJobs: www.myvisajobs.com](http://www.myvisajobs.com)
- [OPTNation: www.optnation.com](http://www.optnation.com)
- [Ultimate H1-B Sponsor Checker \(for LinkedIn and Indeed\)](#)

Alumni CORNER

Invitation to Alumni: Fall 2025 SDS Tuesday Seminar Series – Share Your Data Science Expertise

We're thrilled to begin planning the Fall 2025 Tuesday Professional Seminar Series and invite our alumni to participate as featured speakers. These weekly sessions, held Tuesdays from 4:00–5:00 p.m. at the Dubois Center in uptown Charlotte, connect current students with professionals like you who are shaping the future of data science and health analytics.

By sharing your experience—whether it's a deep dive into the tools you use, insights on emerging trends, or advice on launching a data-driven career—you'll help students gain valuable real-world perspective and strengthen the SDS community.

If you're interested in presenting or want to explore ideas, please contact Joshua Hertel at jhertel@charlotte.edu. We would love to showcase your journey and the exciting work you're doing!

Alumni Recruitment: Share Your Opportunities with SDS Students

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.

**NOW
HIRING!**

Here's what you can do:

- **Feature Your Job in the SDS Student Newsletter:** Have a job or internship opening? Send it to Josh Hertel at jhertel@charlotte.edu, and we'll include it in the next SDS Student Newsletter, reaching over 800 current undergraduates and graduate students, plus 1,000+ SDS alumni.
- **Post Through Hire-A-Niner:** As an alumni, you can use UNC Charlotte's Hire-A-Niner platform as an employer, completely free. Post jobs and internships, Target specific majors or program levels (like Data Science, undergrad, or grad).

Let us know when your post is live, and we'll promote it to SDS students via our newsletter. Questions? Contact the Career Center's Employer Engagement Team at recruit@charlotte.edu.

[Update Alumni Information](#)

Keep your contact information current, you'll be sure to receive the latest information on SDS alumni events, news, announcements, and more. With more than 100,000 UNC Charlotte alumni and 500 (and growing) from the School of Data Science, you can connect with other fellow graduates around the globe. [Click here to update your contact and/or professional information.](#)



UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science | 9105 University Rd | Charlotte, NC 28223 US

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