

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Dear SDS Students,

Welcome—or welcome back—to UNC Charlotte and the School of Data Science! With just two weeks until the Fall 2025 semester begins, we're excited to kick off another year of learning, collaboration, and discovery with all of you. Whether you're new to the program or returning for another year, **this newsletter is your guide to getting started and staying informed.** Inside, you'll find **important dates, event highlights, student resources, and career opportunities** to help you make the most of the semester.

We have a full schedule of orientations and welcome events planned for the next three weeks. For graduate students (DSBA and HIAN programs), we will host a campus orientation through the CGLL and a [college/program-specific orientation](#) on August 15th. More details are below. We're especially looking forward to seeing you at the [3rd Annual Data Science Kickoff](#) on August 22. It's a great opportunity to meet other students, connect with faculty and staff, and enjoy some free snacks and SDS T-shirts!

Wishing you a successful and rewarding semester ahead,

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.

Important DATES

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

- **August 6:** Last Day of Classes - Summer session | **Fall Payment Deadline**
- **August 7– 8:** Final Examinations - Summer session
- **August 9:** Summer Commencement
- **August 11:** Academic Year Begins
- **August 12:** Grades Due by noon - Summer session
- **August 17:** New Student Convocation
- **August 18:** First day of classes - Fall semester
- **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

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



Shelley Rochester
BUSINESS EXECUTION MANAGER – EXTERN PROGRAM MANAGER



Lyndsay Koch
EARLY CAREER SENIOR RECRUITER AND QUANT PROGRAM MANAGER



Introduction to the Wells Fargo Externship Program

August 26, 2025

For more information, please visit:



Sponsored by:




Jake Brulato
2024 EXTERN, DATA MANAGEMENT ANALYST




Avantika Priya
SENIOR LEAD BUSINESS EXECUTION CONSULTANT
INDEPENDENT TESTING & VALIDATION

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




Vrushali Sawant
DATA SCIENTIST
SAS




Trustworthy AI: Governance, Fairness, and Ethics in Practice

September 2, 2025

For more information, please visit:



Sponsored by:



A Day in the Life of A Consultant

Join us for a virtual spotlight session with McKinsey consultants from a variety of practices, including Digital, Marketing & Sales, Strategy, and more. Register now!

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 | Sept. 15 – Oct. 10

Join curious minds around the world for the

2025 SAS Hackathon, running from Sept. 15 – Oct. 10. You'll gain access to a cloud environment, collaborate with mentors, and retain ownership of your ideas and data. [Learn more & register now!](#)

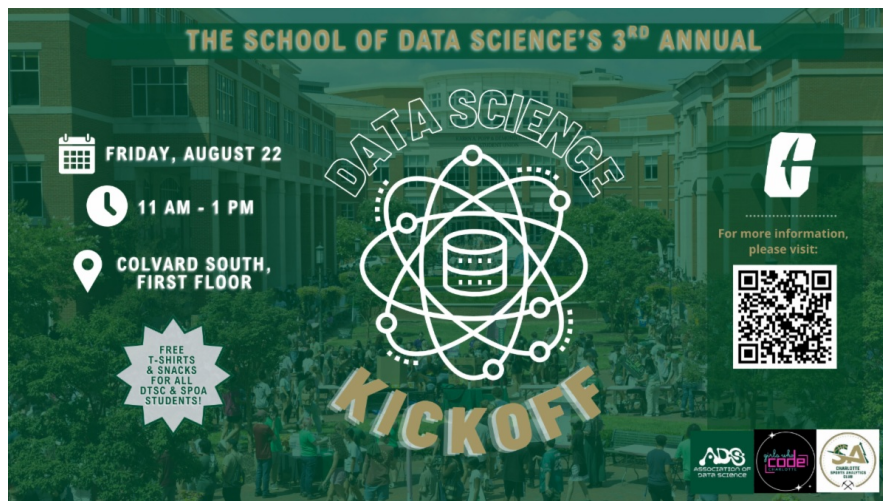


WELCOME NEW STUDENTS – Grads and Undergrads! ☐☐

We have a variety of events coming up in the coming weeks to help you get acclimated to the campus and ready for the start of the semester. There are special welcome and orientation sessions for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as international students. Please see below for more information.

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!



SDS & CCI GRADUATE Student Welcome – Please RSVP for Orientation!

Welcome, new DSBA and HIAN students! [RSVP here and join us for the SDS New Graduate Student Orientation](#) on Friday, August 15, from 2:00–4:30 PM in Woodward Hall. Meet your fellow students, engage with faculty and staff, and gain the tools you need to start your program with confidence!

General Campus Orientation – Fall 2025 Graduate Student Orientations

Hosted by the [Center for Graduate Life & Learning](#) for all new graduate students campus-wide:

- [Graduate Student Virtual Orientation](#) | Thursday, August 14th, 2025 | 4:00-6:00 PM
- [New Doctoral Student Orientation](#) | Friday, August 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Harris Alumni Center
- [New Graduate Student Welcome Reception](#) | Saturday, August 16, 2025 | 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Hauser Alumni Pavilion

International Student Orientation – Fall 2025

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, August 13 – In-Person Welcome Event, 8:30 AM, McKnight Hall
- Thursday, August 14 – Exchange Student Campus Tour, 9:00 AM
- Thursday, August 14 – On-Campus Employment Workshop, 10:00 AM (Zoom)
- August 1 & Beyond – Optional student-led events

Visit the [ISSO Orientation Page](#) for the full checklist and important updates.

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

Featured Fall Electives

Reminder: If you haven't registered for your fall classes yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need authorization, reach out to your advisor. **Undergraduate students** in the DTSC and SPOA programs should contact **Deanna Rella** or a **Peer Advisor** at sds-advising@charlotte.edu. **Graduate students** in the DSBA or HIAN programs should contact **Carly Mahedy** at cfletcher@charlotte.edu. Please also remember that the **fall payment deadline is Wednesday, August 6, by 11:59 p.m.** Students who have not paid by the deadline will be dropped from their classes, so be sure your registration and payment are completed on time.

Featured Fall Electives for HIAN and DSBA Graduate Students

GRAD 6320/8320 – Personal Career Branding Monday, 10:00–11:45 AM: This course equips you with tools to build a strong personal brand and launch your professional journey.



DSBA 6010 – Model Risk Monday, 5:30–8:15 PM, CCB: Learn practical techniques such as SHAP, LIME, and sensitivity analysis to strengthen model reliability and control.

DSBA 6010 / HCIP 6070 – AI in Healthcare Monday, 5:30–8:15 PM, Main Campus : Examine how AI is transforming healthcare and the challenges of deploying lab-tested models in real-world clinical settings.

DSBA 6188 – Text Mining and Information Retrieval Wednesday, 5:30–8:15 PM, CCB: Learn text classification, topic modeling, and retrieval models to extract insights from large text datasets.

DSBA 6326 – Network Science Tuesday, 5:30–8:15 PM, CCB : Understand how networks function in systems from social media to infrastructure.

Featured Fall Electives for SDS Undergraduate Students

DTSC 2110 – Sport Business Analytics- MWF 1:25 PM - 2:15 pm: Students will explore key concepts in sports business analytics and examine influential historical and contemporary business decisions in sports.



WGST 3102: Changing Realities – Data Feminism- Meets M/W on campus, F asynchronous, 10:00–11:00 AM: This course explores how power structures—related to gender, race, class, and more—shape and are shaped by data. Through

the lens of feminism and data justice, students will explore how to utilize data for promoting equity and social change.



Meet the SDS Peer Advisors and Graduate Assistants

Undergraduate Peer Advisors: Peer Advisors are trained students who help their peers by answering questions, sharing resources, and promoting awareness of academic policies. They assist new and transfer students during orientation, participate in outreach campaigns, and contribute to events such as group advising sessions, workshops, and open houses.



Maria Eduarda is a Data Science BS student double majoring in International Business and minoring in Italian. She is currently a senior and serves as a Peer Advisor.

Jason Labreque is a Peer Advisor and a BS in Data Science student. He is a senior minoring in Artificial Intelligence and is a part of the Early Entry program for the Master's in Data Science and Business Analytics.



Shanthi Pillai is also a Data Science BS student minoring in Bioinformatics. She is a current sophomore in the honors program on campus.

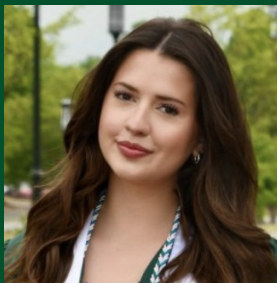
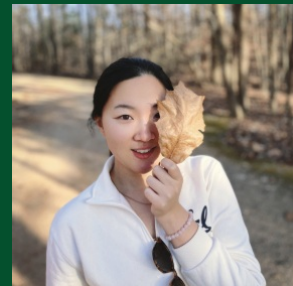
Graduate Assistants: SDS Graduate Assistants are vital to the School's strategic and operational goals. They manage communications, generate reports, update digital platforms, plan events, and market programs. They also support student access to online learning and conference coordination.

Samy Babikerali (DSBA MS) handles administrative and communication tasks, including program emails, website updates, and newsletter support. He will join the team formally in July.



Desire Omotoye (HIA MS) supports event planning, student training, and boot camp logistics; manages student access to learning platforms like Coursera and DataCamp; and assists with managing website content and creating social media graphics.

Jiaqi Sun (DSBA MS) specializes in marketing and communications, managing website content, social media and developing marketing strategies for both undergraduate and graduate programs, including conference communications.



Paige Pickett (DSBA MS) is a graduate student in the M.S. in Data Science and Business Analytics program and currently serves as President of the School of Data Science Student Council. She will begin her role as a graduate assistant in Fall 2025.

Student Government

NEWS

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!](#)

SDS 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!

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 Here!

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. 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. 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. Stay connected and follow SGA for the latest updates and opportunities!

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 \(jhertel@charlotte.edu\)](mailto:jhertel@charlotte.edu) or access the full UNC Charlotte community through the Career Center- See Below.

Fall 2025 Internship Opportunity with Brandsymbol

Brandsymbol, a data-driven brand creation agency, is offering a paid 12-week internship in its Regulatory Division for Fall 2025. The intern will work on automating name safety testing tools using technologies like Excel, R Studio, SQL Server, and Python. [Click here to see more details!](#)

Contract AI/Python Engineer (3–6 months) needed in Charlotte, NC

Contract AI/Python Engineer (3–6 months) needed in Charlotte, NC (hybrid) with professional Python experience in production data systems or AI/ML pipelines. The role involves processing complex financial documents, developing advanced RAG and retrieval architectures, and building real-time data pipelines. [Click here to see more details!](#)

Ally is posting a Data Analyst II position

The full-time Data Analyst II role supports Consumer Banking Business Line Risk Analytics. [Find the full job posting here: Data Analyst II - Consumer Banking Business Line Risk Analytics.](#)



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](#).

Research Assistantship Opportunity – Fall 2025

Dr. Hamed Tabkhi is seeking highly motivated **Master's and Ph.D. students** to join his research group, focusing on cutting-edge research and development in computer vision and machine learning design and optimization for smart city applications. [Click here to see more details and apply!](#)

Careers with Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo, a valued partner of the School of Data Science, has shared important recruiting information for undergraduate and graduate students interested in early career opportunities. Below is the key timeline for 2026 hiring (subject to change):

The Wells Fargo logo is displayed in a red square with the words "WELLS" and "FARGO" stacked vertically in a yellow, serif font.

- **June/July:** Early Careers positions go live on the Wells Fargo Careers website
- **September – Early November:** Interviews conducted
- **November – December:** Offer decisions
- **December:** Fall recruiting season closes

Students are encouraged to explore the following resources:

- **Main Site:** [It all begins with you | Wells Fargo](#)
- **Early Careers Programs:** [Early Careers | Wells Fargo](#)

Now is a great time to begin preparing your materials and reviewing the available programs! [Join their talent community | Wells Fargo \(wellsfargojobs.com\) |](#)

Internships

- [2026 Analytics and Data Summer Internship, Wells Fargo](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [2026 Machine Learning Engineer Intern, Tiktok](#) - San Jose, CA
- [2026 Data Scientist Intern, Tiktok](#) - San Jose, CA
- [2026 Business Analyst Intern, Amazon](#) - Seattle, WA

Jobs

- [Data Analyst, Specialist \(ERO\), Vanguard](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [AI/ML and Gen AI Architect, Vanguard](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Senior Data Engineer - Real Time Analytics, Vanguard](#) - Charlotte, NC
- [Senior PowerBI Analyst, FDM](#) - New York
- [Fellow, Product Owner - Cyber Security Engineering \(SIEM Platform, Cyber Data Analytics, and Automation\), Ally](#) - Charlotte, 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 \(for LinkedIn and Indeed\)](#)



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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