



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

SCHOOL OF
DATA SCIENCE

October 19 STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the School of Data Science Newsletter!

I open this edition with bittersweet feelings as I prepare to retire at the end of October. As my time with SDS draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the people and experiences that have made this journey so meaningful.

I joined UNC Charlotte in 2011 with the launch of the **Professional Science Master's in Health Informatics**. Our first cohort was a small but brave group of fewer than a dozen students from across the Carolinas and around the world. At a time of economic uncertainty, they took a leap of faith in a brand-new program and helped lay the groundwork for everything that followed.



From those modest beginnings, we grew together, launching the Professional Science Master's in Data Science and Business Analytics, establishing the Data Science Initiative, and eventually becoming the School of Data Science. Today, the School serves more than 1,000 students across five degree programs.

This interdisciplinary endeavor has never been the work of any one person. It reflects the dedication of faculty, staff, community and industry partners, and students who took that leap of faith together. Each has helped build a strong foundation for the School's future.

To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and the opportunity to learn and grow alongside you. It has been a privilege to help build this community and to see our students turn their ambitions into accomplishments.

I leave with deep gratitude, wonderful memories, and great hope for what comes next for SDS and all of you.

Best,
Josh

Joshua 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 Mongillo**, SDS Communications and Events Manager. Newsletters are published bi-monthly, around the 1st and 15th of the month.



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Important Campus Dates

The **Registrar's Calendar for 2026-2027** includes the full academic year schedule for holidays and deadlines. Find the full **SDS Calendar of Events** on the program website.

- October 26 **Registration for Spring 2027 begins**
- October 30 **Planned Schedule Interruption: Weekday Football Game**
- November 11 Veterans Day – No Classes
- November 12 Doctoral Dissertation Defense Deadline
- November 16 Last day to submit doctoral dissertations for December graduation

- November 21 Final Examinations for Saturday classes
- November 25 – November 28 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
- December 2 Last day of classes
- December 3 Reading Day
- December 4 – December 10 **Final Examinations**
- December 7 Master's Thesis Defense Deadline
- December 10 Last Day to submit Master's Thesis for December graduation
- December 10 Summer 2027 Schedule of Classes Available on the Web
- December 11 – December 12, 2026 **Commencement**



Program Updates AND CAMPUS NEWS

Welcoming Dr. Wenwen Dou as DSBA Graduate Program Director



Please join us in welcoming Professor Wenwen Dou as the new Graduate Program Director for Data Science and Business Analytics (DSBA)! A UNC Charlotte alumna with a Ph.D. in Computer Science, Dr. Dou teaches Visual Analytics and serves as co-director of the Ribarsky Center for Visual Analytics. Her research brings together machine learning, interactive visualization, and human-centered, trustworthy AI.

Dr. Dou joins a dedicated team of program directors advancing the School of Data Science's academic programs:

- **Abbey Thomas Fenwick** and **John Tobias**: Sport Analytics
- **Rajib Paul**: Data Science and Health Analytics
- **Marco Scipioni**: Undergraduate Data Science
- **Jason Windett**: Data Science Ph.D.

Together, these faculty leaders guide curriculum development, champion program innovation, and collaborate with faculty and staff to support student success. Their expertise and commitment help keep our programs responsive to students'

academic interests and professional goals. We are excited to welcome Dr. Dou to this leadership team!

Spring 2027 Registration: Plan Ahead and Take Action Now

Spring 2027 registration begins October 26! The course schedule is now available, and students should review their degree requirements, meet with advisors, and prepare their schedules to register on time.

Undergraduate Students (DTSC & SPOA):

Required Advising: All *Data Science (DTSC)* and *Sport Analytics (SPOA)* majors must complete

registration advising to have their advising holds removed before registering.

Undergraduate and peer advisors have been meeting with students throughout the past month, but if you have not yet completed advising, schedule your appointment immediately through Connect. Most undergraduates will register during the week of November 2, so don't wait!



Graduate Students (DSBA & DSHA): Course Planning: SDS has hosted two virtual graduate advising sessions and developed a new Spring 2027 Graduate Course Guide highlighting core, elective, and special topics courses, including Agentic AI, machine learning, cloud computing, data mining, and health analytics. Review the guide now and plan your courses before registration opens.

All Students: Check DegreeWorks and Banner: Review your DegreeWorks audit through my.charlotte.edu to confirm your degree progress and identify any discrepancies. Contact your academic advisor or Graduate Program Director with questions. Consult Banner Self-Service for official course schedules, locations, availability, and registration details.

Don't wait until your registration window opens. ***Complete advising, clear your holds, and have your Spring 2027 courses ready to go!***

Campus Events
CCI AND SDS

SDS Events

SDS hosts weekly in-person Professional Seminar Sessions with various presenters to help students connect with industry professionals and build career skills. All sessions are hosted at the Dubois Center from 4:00-5:00 pm. Please visit the [SDS Calendar of Events](#) for more information about the participating companies and speakers, and to register.

Think Like a Consultant: Business

Strategy for Data Scientists Tuesday |

October 20th | 4pm to 5pm - Joe Keating, Manager in Data, AI & Quantitative at Sia, will share practical consulting frameworks to help data scientists deconstruct vague business problems, align with stakeholder needs, and deliver insights that drive real decisions—join us to learn how to turn analysis into impact; **registration required.**



- **“Giting” with GitHub! | Tuesday, October 27, from 4–5 p.m. in Dubois Center, Room 905:** Join us for a hands-on workshop with Dr. Colby T. Ford of Tuple. Designed for beginners, this session will introduce Git and GitHub, from creating repositories and tracking changes to using branches and collaborating through pull requests. Build practical skills for coursework, research, and your career.

Register today and join us!

Health Informatics Seminar: AI for Clinical Decision Support



**Carolina Health
Informatics Program**

Wednesday, October 21, 4:00–5:00 PM ET | Virtual:
Join UNC Charlotte alumnus **Dr. Isaac Olufadewa**, Assistant Professor at Lincoln Memorial University,

for a discussion of how big data and explainable AI can improve clinical decision-making, identify patient risks earlier, and support safer healthcare. The seminar will explore challenges related to bias, trust, and interpretability in healthcare AI. **Register to attend**

CCI and Campus Events

The College of Computing and Informatics, Career Center, Center for Graduate Life and Learning, etc., host regular in-person and online sessions open to all, featuring various presenters to help students connect with industry professionals and build career skills. Please visit their **respective website** for the full list of opportunities. Below is a curated list.

- **HAVK | Build Your Own NFC Smart Keychain | Wednesday, October 21, 5:30 PM, Woodward 335:** Build and customize your own NFC-powered keychain that instantly opens your Spotify, GitHub, Instagram, portfolio, or any link you want with just a tap of a phone. You'll design it, program it, and leave with something that's completely yours.
- **Scout Motors & Coffee on Craver Road | Thursday, October 22, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.:** Grab a coffee, check out a vintage Scout vehicle, and explore career opportunities with Scout Motors on the brick plaza outside Popp Martin Student Union. Meet the team and learn about Scout's future in the Carolinas. Part of the Career Center's Engineering | Manufacturing | Energy Week, this event is open to all students. Stop by and join us!



• **Research Seminar: “Your Model Is Leaking.” | Wednesday, October 28, from 11 a.m.–noon in Friday 128** - Join the Center for TAIMing AI and learn how intercepted model updates can expose AI models even when training data stays private, and explore a lightweight defense designed to protect models from reconstruction attacks. Presented by Dr. Dipankar Maity. For more information, click [here](#). To request to join the seminar virtually, email taining-ai@charlotte.edu.

• **CS Create Debug Challenge Table |Wednesday, October 28, 2:30pm-4:00pm:** Students of all majors can drop by to debug the code in 60 seconds for a chance to win a prize!



Many UNC Charlotte students come from various places out of North Carolina. The shift from being at home to coming out of state can be difficult for many. We want students to be able to find their community and make Charlotte feel like home.

We want to hear **your testimonial** and how you're experience coming to a university out of state has shaped your personal journey as a student.

Please click [here](#) to access the *See Yourself at Charlotte Student Spotlight* to express your feelings moving away from home, and how you found your place at UNC Charlotte.

Niner Finances: Managing money can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone! Niner Finances at Charlotte offers workshops, one-on-one coaching, and resources to help you with budgeting, credit, saving, and planning for the future. Whether you're figuring out how to stretch your paycheck, planning for student loan repayment, or just want to build stronger financial habits, this office is here to support you.



The Office of Adult Students and Evening Services (OASES): Services (OASES) Balancing school, work, and life as an adult or evening student takes extra support — and that's precisely what OASES provides. From academic advising to mentoring programs, workshops, and a dedicated study space, OASES is designed to help you succeed at UNC Charlotte. Whether you're returning to school, juggling

responsibilities, or taking evening classes, OASES connects you with the resources and community you need.

Resources

What's Happening in the Community?

Charlotte is a thriving business and innovation hub, home to Fortune 500 leaders including Bank of America, Lowe's, Honeywell, Duke Energy, Truist, and Nucor. With major employers across finance, healthcare, retail, technology, manufacturing, and more, Charlotte also offers countless professional events, meetups, and affinity groups. Explore opportunities beyond campus.

- **City of Charlotte Internship Career Fair- Explore Internship Opportunities | Wednesday, October 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:** Looking for an internship that puts your data science skills to work in the community? Meet representatives from city departments, connect with municipal professionals, explore career pathways, and learn more about internship opportunities. This is a great chance to build your network and prepare for future opportunities with the City of Charlotte. **Sign up for the Internship Career Fair**



Spring 2027 | City of Charlotte
INTERNSHIP CAREER FAIR

The City of Charlotte Internship Career Fair is your gateway to meaningful opportunities across a wide range of departments and career paths.

Whether you're a college student, or recent college graduate, this event will connect you with city leaders and professionals who are shaping Charlotte's future.

WEDNESDAY
Oct. 21, 2026
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1105 OTTS ST.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Free street parking and on-site parking lot available.

To apply, scan the QR code or visit our website for more information.
citgov.me/internships

CITY OF CHARLOTTE | Be part of the **city**. Shape your **future**.



- **Charlotte Brews + Bytes | Wednesday, October 28 | 4:30-6:30pm@NoDa Brewing-** Join NCTECH for a casual social hour with Charlotte's tech community. Catch up with friends and colleagues, meet other tech professionals, and connect with the

NCTECH team.

Student Government

NEWS

Association of Data Science Welcomes New Officers

The Association of Data Science (ADS) supports undergraduate students with a passion for data through events, workshops, networking, and professional development opportunities. ADS welcomes all SDS undergraduates interested in getting involved, planning events, joining a committee, or sharing ideas. Watch the SDS newsletter for upcoming events and opportunities to connect with ADS. Stay updated on events through SDS email newsletters, or follow us on **LinkedIn**, **Instagram**, or **Linktree**.



Upcoming Event for the ADS

- **Jeopardy Night: Monday, October 19th - Mebane 419**
 - Join us for a Jeopardy night from 6-7 PM- no prior knowledge required!



Turning Projects into a Portfolio: Wednesday, October 21 | 6:00–7:00 PM | Dubois Center 1103

Student-led lesson led by Toby Wong

Class assignments, side projects, and internship work often end up forgotten in a folder, even though they could be some of your strongest evidence of skill. In this session, Toby will show how to turn that work into a portfolio that gets the attention of recruiters, hiring managers, and graduate programs.



Participants will learn how to choose the projects that best show their abilities and how to frame each one as a short case study: the problem, the approach, the tools used, and the measurable result. The session will compare portfolio platforms, from GitHub and personal websites to LinkedIn and Notion, and explain which ones suit technical,

business, and creative roles. It will also cover common mistakes, such as listing tasks instead of outcomes, including too many projects, or leaving out your own contribution to team work.

Attendees will leave with a simple framework for documenting future projects as they go, plus a plan to turn at least one existing project into a finished portfolio piece.

Format: 45–60 minute interactive session with real examples, a hands-on drafting activity, and Q&A

Student Community Cleanup Day

October 24 | 1:00–3:00 PM | Dubois Center- Join fellow students for an afternoon of community service! Volunteers will meet at the Dubois Center, then head out in small teams to clean nearby streets, sidewalks, and green spaces. We'll provide gloves, trash bags, and grabbers. Wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle. It's a great opportunity to meet classmates, give back to the community, and earn volunteer hours.

If you have any questions, please email (cltsdsgraduatestudentcouncil@gmail.com) or connect through **LinkTree**: <https://linktr.ee/cltsdsgraduatestudentcouncil>.



New SDS Alumni Network on LinkedIn!- The **School of Data Science Alumni Network** is now on LinkedIn! Current students and alums can use the group to stay connected, find career opportunities, share professional experiences, and learn about SDS events and alums news. The network is just getting started, and we need your help to grow it. Follow the group, introduce yourself, and invite others in the SDS community to join.

Join Today!

Update Your Alumni Information- Keep your contact and professional information current to receive updates about SDS alum events, news, and opportunities.

[Update Your Information Here](#)

Coffee & Connect

Coffee and Connect is an open hour for students, faculty, and alumni **of the School of Data Science**. Come to meet **people, trade notes and grow the network**. Bring a question, leave with a few names.

COFFEE & CONNECT

an hour with the Alumni Network

JOIN US

**Wednesday, October 28
4:00 to 5:30 PM**

906 DUBOIS CENTER

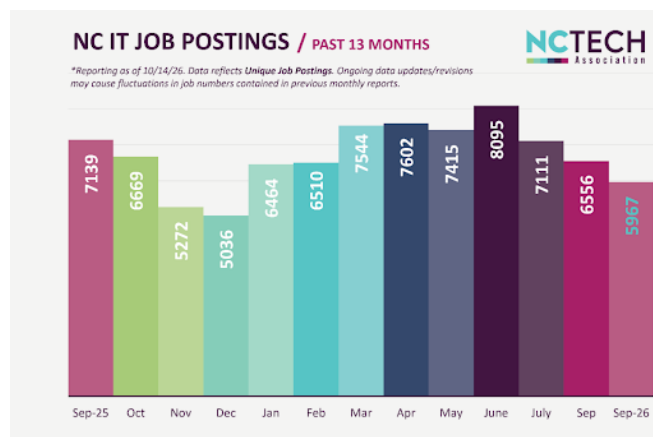
An open hour for students, faculty and alumni to meet, trade notes and grow the network.

STUDENTS · FACULTY · ALUMNI · ALL WELCOME



Data Science IN THE NEWS

NC and U.S. IT Job Postings Decline in September; U.S. Still Up from 2025



IT Hiring Update: North Carolina IT job postings fell 9% in September compared with August and 16.4% from September 2025, according to NC TECH. National postings declined 5.8% month over month but remained 10.5% above last year's level. For students exploring career opportunities, NC TECH's dashboard offers insights into

hiring companies, job titles, in-demand skills, certifications, and wage trends.

[Explore the full report and IT Job Trends Dashboard.](#)

Job Search

RESOURCES

Career Tips: Never Miss An Opportunity with Hire-A-Niner Job Alerts

Looking for internships or full-time opportunities? Let **Hire-A-Niner**, UNC Charlotte's career platform, do the searching for you by setting up **Job Alerts**.



1. Log in to Hire-A-Niner with your NinerNET credentials, select the **Jobs** tab, and use the search filters to customize your results. You can filter by **Position Type**, **Industry**, and **Remote/On-Site** options. For even more targeted results, click **More Filters** to refine your search by criteria such as **Desired Major**, **Work Authorization**, **Posted Date**, **Apply By**, and more.
2. Once you've selected the filters that best match your interests, click **Apply** to view the available opportunities. If you're happy with the results, select **Create Job Alert** in the upper-right corner of the page. You'll receive a confirmation message indicating that alerts have been created for your search.
3. You can customize how often you receive notifications by clicking the **settings (gear) icon** next to **Create Job Alert** and choosing a frequency that works for you: **Daily**, **Weekly**, **Monthly**, **Quarterly**, or **Never**.

Return to the settings menu at any time to update or delete saved alerts. A few minutes of setup can help ensure you never miss relevant opportunities!

Find Your Next Opportunity: NC TECH Job Board



Looking for your next career opportunity? The NC TECH Job Board connects job seekers with open positions at NC TECH member companies. To get started, visit the **NC TECH Job Board**, explore current listings, and subscribe to receive notifications when new positions are added. Select the job categories that interest you to stay informed about relevant opportunities.

Whether you're preparing to graduate or exploring your next professional step, add this resource to your search. **Sign up today and keep your job search moving!**



Job & Internship

SEARCH RESOURCES

General Job Boards	Tech & Data Careers	Specialized Searches
Hire-A-Niner	Dice	Wellfound: Startup Jobs
LinkedIn	Data Jobs	Jobspresso: Remote Jobs

Muse	Crunchboard	Tech Jobs For Good
Uncubed	Just Tech Jobs	Hire Tech Ladies
Simplify	Built In	Diversify Tech

	Stack Overflow Jobs	Team Blind
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Additional Resources for International Students

Resource	Description
Global Jobs	Job opportunities in international affairs and policy
GoinGlobal	Country-specific career guides and global job-search resources
H-1B Employer Data Hub	USCIS data on employers' H-1B petitions
MyVisaJobs	Visa sponsorship data and employer research tools

<u>OPTNation</u>	Job listings for international students seeking OPT opportunities
<u>Ultimate H-1B Sponsor Checker</u>	Browser extension highlighting potential H-1B sponsors on job boards
<u>H1B Visa Jobs</u>	Job-search resources focused on H-1B sponsorship

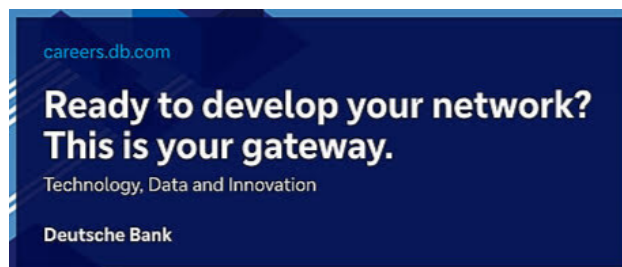


Job Postings

- Launch Your Tech Career with Deutsche Bank:**

Graduating between **January 1, 2026, and July 31, 2027**, with a related STEM bachelor's or master's degree? Explore Deutsche Bank's **2027 TDI**

Graduate Analyst Program, featuring two six-month rotations, hands-on coding, technical and AI training, and mentorship before placement with a long-term team. [Apply today](#) or [learn more about the program](#). Want to connect with recruiters? [RSVP for the November 10 Early Careers Recruitment Info Session](#) and [sign up for the newsletter](#) for future opportunities.



- Full-Time Job Opportunities: Biostatistician II & IV at Wake Forest University:**

Wake Forest University Health Sciences is hiring for Biostatistician II and Biostatistician IV positions in Winston-Salem, NC! These opportunities offer professionals with backgrounds in statistics, biostatistics, and related quantitative fields the chance to contribute to biomedical research through statistical analysis, study design, data quality assessment, and collaboration with research investigators. The Biostatistician II position requires three years of biomedical experience, while the Biostatistician IV position requires seven years of statistical experience and involves additional research leadership, grant development, and supervisory responsibilities.

LEARN MORE & APPLY USING THE LINKS ABOVE.

- Full-Time Job Opportunity: Senior Business Analyst at Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS):** CATS is hiring a Senior Business Analyst to support its growing data and analytics team! As CATS transitions to the Metropolitan

Public Transit Authority (MPTA), this role offers an opportunity to help build data-driven practices, strengthen operational analytics, and support strategic decision-making in public transportation. This opportunity may be of particular interest to graduate students and professionals with backgrounds in data analytics, business analytics, and related fields. The position is based in Charlotte, NC, with a salary range of \$85,288–\$122,601. Applications close October 30, 2026. [LEARN MORE & APPLY.](#)

Internships

- **Summer 2027 Internship – Consumer Banking (Forecasting Data Science)**, Ally, Charlotte, NC
- **2027 Summer Intern: Associate Data Analyst (Customer Operations)**, Spectrum, Charlotte, NC
- **2027 Early Talent Internship: Business Management and Project Analytics**, TIAA, Charlotte, NC
- **2027 AI & Analytics Intern**, Trane Technologies, Charlotte, NC and Minneapolis, MN
- **2027 Early Careers**: Summer Intern Technology, AIG, Multiple Locations
- **2027 Research and Development/Data Science Internship**, ATI Specialty Materials, Monroe, NC

Jobs

- **People Data Analyst**, PSA Airlines, Charlotte, NC
- **Data Scientist II - Fraud Reporting**, Truist, Multiple Locations
- **Sr. Data Analytics Developer**, Guidehouse, Charlotte, NC
- **Data & Audience Analyst Fellow**, The Los Angeles Local News Initiative, Multiple Locations
- **Data Analyst Pharmacy Data and Analytics**, Advocate Health, Charlotte, NC
- **Data Engineer (Talend & Snowflake)**, Infosys, Multiple Locations



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