

CAREER JOB:
Data Analyst



REWARDING CAREERS IN DATA ANALYTICS

Data analysts will be in high demand over the next five years in Washington state and across the country. In every industry and in all sectors, employers will be looking for qualified candidates to fill open positions. The shortage of qualified workers in data analytics in the U.S. will reach 1.5 million by 2018. Successful candidates will begin with a career- and college-ready high school diploma followed by a bachelor's degree in computer science, coding or statistics. A master's degree or certification is preferred but not required. Interested students should learn to code, seek internships and focus studies on STEM-related fields and quantitative disciplines.

THE JOB

THE BASICS:

- » Industry: Every industry and all sectors
- » Salary Range: \$60,000 to \$250,000 per year
- » Companies Hiring: All companies are hiring, including Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Microsoft, TrueBlue and many others

A DAY IN THE LIFE:

- » "In 2003, I was asked to help figure out what went wrong in the largest blackout in the history of the North American power grid. I led the data team that gathered all the information from the affected utilities to support the investigation team. Being ready to say 'yes' when asked to contribute to key assignments provided impact at the precise time that it was needed. Being positioned to be asked—that's what I do every day." — Jeff Dagle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

CANDIDATE PROFILE

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

- » Bachelor's degree in computer science, coding and statistics

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- » Interns: 0-1 years experience; entry level: 1-3 years experience; mid-level: 3-5 years experience; senior-level: 5-10 years experience

SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

- » Programming languages, mathematical ordering, deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning and statistics
- » Written communication, critical thinking, data analysis, teamwork, project & time management, creativity, curiosity, judgment and decision making

PATHWAYS

K-12

- » Learn to code
- » Focus coursework on subjects in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics)
- » Join or start a computer club

POSTSECONDARY

- » Focus coursework on a quantitative discipline
- » Volunteer for projects and seek team-based extracurricular activities
- » Pursue an internship working in the field

CAREER

- » Join professional networks
- » Read about works and contributions of colleagues
- » Look for ways to collaborate on similar goals