

July 29, 2021

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Does SAS have any education opportunities for retirees/seniors?

If you visit [this web page](#), you will see lots of options for free training courses, tutorials, documentation and more.

What options are available for free learning to help people who are new to data science or switching careers from other fields to data science?

Visit the page linked in the answer above for many resources. We also have a [30-day free trial for the SAS® Academy for Data Science](#).

Would you suggest learning Python or R?

Having a breadth of skills across languages is always an advantage. Knowing a little about several languages, with documentation and resources to go deeper as needed, will help you determine whether a project task would be easier in one language or another.

That said, I typically use Python more for larger programming tasks or to build machine learning models. Whereas, I've mainly used R for data processing/cleaning and basic statistics.

What advice do you have for high school students and/or college undergrads interested in going into data science?

Get involved with hands-on data science projects early on to see if you like it and to understand what skills you need to acquire. There are usually professors and research groups that have a few easier tasks that they'd love to have help with, so reach out to them! Being paired up with mentors in data science early on can be a big advantage for learning skills and may lead to future connections.

You can also check out our [career connections](#) for more tips!

What kind of data analysis projects should postgraduate students take to gain experience in machine learning and deep learning?

Some of the biggest challenges new data scientists face include knowing how to get data into a form that is suitable for training a model, or even making you have data that can be analyzed at all. For this reason, projects that give you data management experience can go a long way to making you job-ready.

Does SAS® link up with AWS?

Yes! Also, Microsoft Azure and more. Check out [this page](#) for further information.

What advice do you have for math, finance and actuarial folks who are ready to retire, but also interested in pursuing data analytics work?

Try out the [30-day free trial of the SAS Academy for Data Science](#). If you find it meets your needs, you can sign up for the full subscription and work toward earning world-class certifications in data science to build upon your existing expertise in finance and actuarial science.

What are the best certifications to obtain and from where? There are so many places offering them lately.

Of course, my favorites are [these](#). Especially the AI and Machine Learning Professional certification.

Does a data science career require a PhD to seriously advance outside of academia?

I have not found that to be the case at all. While many data scientists have a PhD, a master's degree is the model degree I see among data scientists I encounter in business.

How can one find the career hub?

Take a look [here](#).

