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LIS 4934: BSIS Senior Capstone

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15 September 2024

Career Aspirations & Goals Essay

My name is Nicholas Baumeister, currently residing in Welsey Chapel, Florida. My major is information science with a concentration in data science and analytics. My major is relevant to my career aspirations as I am about to start my 40-year career in the data science & analytics field. Since I was a young boy, I always loved to learn about how a computer works and basic concepts of logic. My father is a database engineer working for an international company. The main programming language used in his 30-year career is SQL server which is a relational database management system. My parents inspired me to pursue a career in the information technology field since I became obsessed with computers as a child. In high school, I took basic computer science and engineering courses, and I excelled in these subjects to prepare for college.

I started my collegiate journey as a computer science major at a New Jersey local community college. The main courses I took are introductory programming in Visual Basic, C++ programming, Assembly language, intermediate programming in Visual Basic, and discrete mathematics. I faced significant challenges, which caused me to fail out of the computer science major due to not meeting the grade prerequisite and GPA requirement to enter the College of Engineering at USF. This was during the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 through May 2022. After my acceptance to USF, I changed my major to information science with a concentration of data science and analytics. My passion for the career field of data science and

analytics came true as my academic performance is excellent. During my time at USF, I have taken courses in introductory statistics, introduction to data science, R programming, data management systems, information policy, and information behaviors. During the Spring 2024 semester, I was an undergraduate research assistant for one of my professors. My groupmates and I managed data-related tasks such as data collection, cleaning, manipulation, and analysis. Even though I did not present any statistical analysis reports to the group, I worked with machine learning and programming tools (e.g., R, Python, and SQL). I also used ggplot which is an R-package for creating data visualizations.

I visited the USF Career Services website where I got to schedule appointments to meet one on one with a career advisor. I experienced difficulties with crafting my own resume because of incorrect formatting, and I relied on AI to generate a resume. The career advisor told me to create a resume from scratch instead of using AI to assist me. I did not have the chance to attend Career Services events as I was focusing on my part-time job at Winn Dixie. I work at Winn Dixie as a cashier, and it is my one-year anniversary with the company. I can add several transferrable skills such as teamwork, attention to detail, critical thinking, and inventory management to my resume. My first part time job as a first-year student was at a medical supply store where I enhanced shipping efficiency through accurate order processing, inventory management, and data analysis. I utilized Excel spreadsheets to manage inventory from each vendor I worked with. I was recognized by the logistics managers for improving record-keeping accuracy and reducing errors in shipping documentation. I was one of the youngest employees at only eighteen years old working with senior level executives and employees. Although I did not have any internship experience, I gained experience by doing personal projects I am about to

display inside the portfolio. I earned a Google certification in February 2024 which involved data analysis in R programming.

For one of the courses I have taken at USF, I used the USF library databases homepage to complete writing assignments. The course is named LIS 2005 (information literacy). The course teaches critical thinking skills to students. For example, the class utilized internet research skills to create APA citations using online databases. There are two other courses which also focus on the importance of using ethical information. The two classes are LIS 4204 (information behaviors) and LIS 4414 (information policy & ethics). Information policy is an important concept of my career because employers defined expectations and responsibilities for employees for data handling.

Once I graduate from USF, I plan to apply for entry level data analytics positions and to earn relevant certifications. The positions I plan to enter are to become a business analyst, a business intelligence analyst, a data analyst, a database administrator, and an information systems analyst. After I secure one of these entry level positions, I plan to utilize the experience for at least three years before entering graduate school. I plan to pursue an online master's degree in data science while working full-time. There are several benefits of earning a master's degree. For example, the degree can help qualify for more advanced roles such as management and leadership roles.