

data science and informatics: creating student led data science curricula

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who are we?

- A multi- and inter-disciplinary student organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting Data Science at the University of Florida.
- Partnered with the UF Informatics Institute, whose aim is to foster informatics research and education at UF, as part of UF's Rise to Preeminence.
- A community of graduate and undergraduate students here to teach and learn.

UF | Informatics Institute
University *of* Florida

UF RISING to National Preeminence

brief history of dsi

- Founded in March of 2015
- Three advisors from Statistics, Computer Science, and Industrial Engineering
- Workshop-focused from our inception
- Was founded to fill a need on campus - few places existed to learn Python, R, and other tools with guidance and feedback

what do we do?

- Deliver workshops on key tools used in Data Science, such as Python, R, Spark, SQL, and Natural Language Processing.
- Connect UF undergraduates and graduate students to the resources and events available through the Informatics Institute.
- Host social events, competitions, and symposia.

our workshops:

- Student-designed, student-run, student-taught
- 14+ per semester
- 30-100 attendees per workshop



workshop Coordination

Workshop Coordination
=
Creating Workshops
+
Choosing Instructors

competing data science truths

Techniques, languages, and frameworks used today will not all be useful in a few years time

vs

Teaching students specific Data Science skills is a worthy pursuit

Workshop design

Student led workshops let content be designed by demand

- SQL + NLP

Workshop Tips

- Emphasize learning process
- Show bugs/mistakes
- Live code
- Set goals for end of workshop

workshop instructors

Intermediate users are often better instructors than experts

- Proximity to learning material
- Lack of ingrained habits
- Empathy for mistakes

Humility and empathy are crucial

A bad workshop prevents current learning, a bad instructor prevents future learning

workshop instructors

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results of workshops

- **Very** positive feedback!
- Create a desire to learn more and go beyond the scope of the workshop
- Students have a desire to get more involved
- Help students across a variety of fields
  - Statistics and CS
  - Industrial engineering
  - Biology/Bioinformatics
  - Journalism

growth of dsi

- Founded by a small group of students in March 2015
- Currently 3 years later:
  - An executive board of 15 members
  - Facebook group with 1400+ members
  - 14 workshop sessions this semester with large turnout
  - Symposium with 100+ attendees

Growth Statistics

- Workshops
  - Spring 2016: Python 0
    - 18 attendees
  - Fall 2017: Python 0
    - 38 attendees
  - This semester: so much interest that we needed 2 days of sessions

results of growth

- The growth of DSI has led us to become more than just the “workshop club”
- Recruitment:
  - Gartner
  - Deloitte
  - P&G
  - Google
  - Research Groups across campus

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