



Myranda Uselton Shirk

Data Scientist



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What does a Data Scientist do?

A data scientist writes programs to handle data. At NOAA NCEI, I assist the Archive (where NOAA data is preserved) in organizing that data so scientists can easily find and use the data. Sometimes, I use programming to automate processes for managing data as well.

How is your job a space job?

At NCEI, we always say that our data spans from the bottom of the ocean to the surface of the sun—which means I get to process all of that data! This includes data from satellites collecting information from space. What kind of impact does your job have? My job preserves scientific data for future generations. Tracking certain effects on the Earth—such as climate change—requires decades of data. By preserving today's data, I give future scientists the tools to tackle big problems.

What were your interests when you were growing up?

When I was growing up, I loved learning. I was very interested in science and math, but I actually wanted to be a writer! In high school, I realized I could combine my love of being creative with my love of science. Now, writing code allows me to create stories about the Earth and space using actual data, while also helping advance science and benefit society.

What are some of the classes you should take to become a data scientist?

Data science applies math and programming to solve problems in any other field. Find a subject you love, and then take computer science classes to learn how



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to apply data science to your field. Some schools have even started to offer data science courses, which would also be helpful.