Junior Data Scientist

HEJ higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm

Type: Full-Time
Salary: $62,900 - $110,100 per year
Posted: 5 days ago
Application Due: 02/10/2026
Category: Software Engineer/Programmer
Overview

Job ID
36979419

Category
Information Technology

Organization
Info Technology Solutions

Department
Reporting and Analytics Dept

Location
Remote/Hybrid

Salary
$62,900 - $110,100

Date Posted
2026-01-27T12:00:00.000Z

Application Deadline
2026-02-10T12:00:00.000Z

Schedule
8AM - 5PM

Full/Part Time
Full-time(100%)

Other Information
Qalifies for Employee Referral Bonus: No
UC Internal Job: No

Position Information

Information Technology Solutions (ITS) are looking for a curious, self-motivated Junior Data Scientist to help us leverage data to improve the experience of our students, faculty, and staff. In this role, the incumbent won't just be running scripts; but will be a key player in the full lifecycle of machine learning-from initial data discovery to deploying and maintaining models using Google Vertex AI. In addition to machine learning models, the position will also be building agentic AI with Google ADK and deploying agents through Gemini Enterprise.

Because UCR's IT environment is dynamic, the incumbent should be comfortable taking ambiguous problems and refining them into actionable technical solutions. ITS values innovation and is looking for someone who constantly asks, "How can we do this better?"

This is a career position with an end date as Information Technology Solutions (ITS) can commit to two (2) years of funding. Should additional funding become available in the future, the end date may be extended. Furthermore, this position is classified as predominantly remote with occasional visits to campus as needed. Working hours will be based on Pacific Standard Time (PST).

The full salary range for the Junior Data Scientist is $30.13 - $52.73 per hour. However, the pay scale for this position is up to $38.31 per hour. We base salary offers on a variety of considerations, such as education, licensure and certifications, experience, and other business and organizational needs.

Applicants must have current work authorization when accepting a UCR staff position. Currently, UCR is unable to sponsor or take over sponsorship of an employment Visa for staff.

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

Requirements

Education Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in related area and/or equivalent experience/training.
- Master's degree in AI, data science, or machine learning.

Experience
- 0 - 1 years of related experience.

- Experience with Google's Vertex AI
- Experience building agentic AI
- Experience with exploratory data discovery and SQL

Minimum Requirements

Strong organizational skills. Strong analytical and design skills, including the ability to abstract information requirements from real-world processes to understand information flows in computer systems. Knowledge of relevant rules and regulations. Self-motivated and works independently and as part of a team. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information to technical and non-technical personnel at various levels in the organization. Demonstrated ability to work with others from diverse backgrounds. Demonstrated problem-solving skills. Able to learn effectively and meet deadlines. Understanding of data management operations and database administration, including data modeling, data definition, data conversion and management of content or unstructured information. Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to represent relevant information in abstract models. Critical thinking skills and attention to detail. Demonstrated service orientation skills. Strong Python skills.

Preferred Qualifications

Strong organizational skills. Strong analytical and design skills, including the ability to abstract information requirements from real-world processes to understand information flows in computer systems. Knowledge of relevant rules and regulations. Self-motivated and works independently and as part of a team. Demonstrated ability to communicate technical information to technical and non-technical personnel at various levels in the organization. Demonstrated ability to work with others from diverse backgrounds. Demonstrated problem-solving skills. Able to learn effectively and meet deadlines. Understanding of data management operations and database administration, including data modeling, data definition, data conversion and management of content or unstructured information. Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to represent relevant information in abstract models. Critical thinking skills and attention to detail. Demonstrated service orientation skills. Strong Python skills.

Additional Information

In the Heart of Inland Southern California, UC Riverside is located on nearly 1,200 acres near Box Springs Mountain in Southern California; the park-like campus provides convenient access to the vibrant and growing Inland region. The campus is a living laboratory for the exploration of issues critical to growing communities' air, water, energy, transportation, politics, the arts, history, and culture. UCR gives every student, faculty and staff member the resources to explore, engage, imagine and excel.

UC Riverside is recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the country boasting several key rankings of which we are extremely proud.

- UC Riverside is proud to be ranked No. 12 among all U.S. universities, according to Money Magazine's 2020 rankings, and among the top 1 percent of universities worldwide, according to the 2019-20 Center for World University rankings.
- UC Riverside is the top university in the United States for social mobility. - U.S. News 2020
- UCR is a member of the University Innovation Alliance, the leading national coalition of public research universities committed to improving student success for low-income, first-generation, and students of color.
- Among top-tier universities, UC Riverside ranks No. 2 in financial aid. - Business Insider 2019
- Ranked No. 2 in the world for research, UCR's Department of Entomology maintains one of the largest collections of insect specimens the nation. - Center for World University Rankings
- UCR's distinguished faculty boasts 2 Nobel Laureates, and 13 members of the National Academies of Science and Medicine.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories under state or federal law. It is the policy of the University of California to undertake affirmative action and anti-discrimination efforts, consistent with its obligations as a Federal and State contractor.

For information about our generous employee benefits package, visit: Employee Benefits Overview

Certification Requirements

Google Cloud

Job Description Details

General Information

Job Title

DATA SYS ANL 1

Job Code

007197

Grade

20

Department Head

Michelle Hardwick

Supervisor

Danielle Rodenhauser

Generic Scope

Entry-level professional with limited prior experience; learns to use professional concepts to resolve problems of limited scope and complexity; works on assignments that are initially routine in nature, requiring limited judgment and decision making. Employees at this level are expected to acquire the skills and knowledge to perform more advanced work following an agreed upon time in position, through defined training and development planning.

Custom Scope

Under supervision applies professional concepts, department / unit and campus / medical center / OP methodologies and procedures to resolve routine data / information management problems. Works on problems of limited scope to provide data / information management support. Follows standard practices and procedures in analyzing situations or data / information from which answers can be readily obtained.

Department Custom Scope

The Junior Data Scientist will help leverage data to improve the experience of UCR's students, faculty, and staff. In this role, the incumbent will be a key player in the full lifecycle of machine learning-from initial data discovery to deploying and maintaining models using Google Vertex AI. In addition to machine learning models, the position will be building agentic AI with Google ADK and deploying agents through Gemini Enterprise. The position will take ambiguous problems and refine them into actionable technical solutions.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepares simple data models and schemas. Researches simple data alignment and conversion requirements and with assistance develops candidate data mappings for use in converting data from one schema to another.

- Model Development: Translate user requirements into AI/Data Science models and data products. Brainstorm and source data for models. Use feature engineering to determine data factors. Develop models in Python and Vertex AI. Validate model results for accuracy. Engineering Advisement: Developing the logical "blueprint" (schemas and conversion requirements) that Data Engineering needs to build out production feature stores. Conversion Logic: Document models built. Map how data moves from raw institutional records into structured model inputs.
  70%
- Performs basic data management responsibilities.
- Model Deployment (Dev to Prod): Orchestrates the transition of models from the sandbox to Google Vertex AI production environments in collaboration with data engineers. Performance Monitoring: Automates and regularly monitors production models for "drift" or declining accuracy and initiates the "innovation cycle" to improve them. Lifecycle Governance: Manages version control of models and ensures the "logic" remains documented and compliant with institutional standards. User Training: Provide documentation and training for users to understand the model logic and model results.
  20%
- Researches information requirements and standards.
- Data Discovery: Investigates sandbox environments to solve ambiguous institutional problems. ML/Ops Research: Researching and establishing the performance thresholds and monitoring standards for models once they are deployed. Stakeholder Discovery: Translating faculty and staff needs into technical "success metrics" for new models.
  10%

Special Conditions

- Must pass a background check.
- Exercise the utmost discretion in managing sensitive information learned in the course of performing their duties. Sensitive information includes but is not limited to employee and student records, health and patient records, financial data, strategic plans, proprietary information, and any other sensitive or non-public information learned during the course and scope of employment. Understands that sensitive information should be shared on a limited basis and actively takes steps to limit access to sensitive information to individuals who have legitimate business need to know. Ensure that sensitive information is properly safeguarded. Follow all organizational policies and laws on data protection and privacy. This includes secure handling of physical and digital records and proper usage of IT systems to prevent data leaks. The unauthorized or improper disclosure of confidential work-related information obtained from any source on any work-related matter is a violation of these expectations.
- Occasional travel for university related business meetings, conferences and/or professional development.

- Travel Outside of Normal Business Hours

UCR is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer with a commitment to workforce diversity.