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PhD – Statistics, UConn, 1996

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I have always loved playing with data. So much so that I got a PhD in Statistics, wrote a bunch of books on statistics and data science, and developed the world's first online Master's degree in data mining (2001). Enough about me.

I hope that you consider data science for a career path. The career of data scientist is one of the hottest jobs in the world (<https://blog.udacity.com/2016/01/hottest-jobs-in-2016-3-data-scientist.html>), scoring especially high in satisfaction and work-life balance.

Math majors are perfectly prepared for a career in data science, especially if you love statistical analysis. Once you finish your degree, consider getting a Master's degree in the field of data science or data mining, such as the online Master of Science in Data Science (formerly Data Mining) at Central Connecticut State University. If you love playing with data, this is the field for you. With the Math BA and the Data Science MS, you will be golden in this hot job marketplace. For example, one of our recent graduates loved working with sports data. He is now working as a data scientist for the Minnesota Timberwolves NBA basketball team.

I would like to say a word here about becoming a Professor. In my opinion, it is the best job in the world! Intense study of stuff you love, and time to write or do whatever you like. The best quality of life of any job. But, you need the desire to work very hard, because the PhD in Statistics is not easy. Note that I say PhD in Statistics, not PhD in Math. This is because, sadly, there is an oversupply of Math PhDs seeking professorships. But don't worry. Most Statistics PhD programs are mostly math anyway! And don't forget, PhD students have their tuition waived and are provided with assistantships (that is, money for teaching intro stuff).

So, finish your bachelor's degree. Then, if you want, get a master's in data science and become a data scientist. Then, if you have the desire, go for the PhD in Statistics.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. John Judge for his wisdom, insight, and patience in making my career possible. If it were not for him, none of this would ever have happened. His is a great soul, to whom I and my children are perpetually indebted.