UCHICAGO URBANLABS
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Science in Service
of Cities.

Job Title: Data Scientist
Reporting To: Director of Data and Analysis
Projected Start Date: ASAP

Who We Are

In cities across the country, people face high rates of gun violence, under-resourced schools, and social harms associated with the criminal justice system -- all of which disproportionately impact people of color. These inequalities have profound consequences on public safety and opportunity. As a society we have failed to address these challenges, in part, because of our lack of understanding of the most effective and cost-effective solutions that can have a real impact on people's lives. We believe that rigorous research can help.

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab partner with cities and communities to use data and rigorous research to design, test, and scale programs and policies that enhance public safety, improve educational outcomes, and advance justice. Our mission is to combine world-class data science and research, in partnership with government agencies, to substantially improve the effectiveness of the public sector and achieve impact at scale.

To learn more about the Crime Lab and Education Lab, visit
https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/crime.

The Role

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab are seeking a data scientist to work on our portfolio of projects applying machine learning to public policy. We're seeking a smart, motivated, and detail-oriented person to work on all parts of our applied machine learning projects – all the way from cleaning and structuring raw data to developing predictive models and evaluating them in a randomized control trial. An ideal candidate will have experience extracting insights from data and communicating them to both technical and non-technical audiences.

The position offers the opportunity to work directly with leading researchers at the University of Chicago and policymakers on projects with immediate real-world impact. You will collaborate closely with PhD-level computer science and economics researchers, as well as top-notch research managers and Crime Lab leadership. This position is particularly well-suited for candidates who may be interested in pursuing a PhD in the future or for data scientists who want to transition from industry to public policy research.

Duties and Responsibilities

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- Contributes to the design, implementation, and validation of an efficient and reproducible data processing pipeline.
- Builds and rigorously evaluates statistical models using best practices of machine learning and statistical inference.
- Prepares project memos, summaries, presentations, reports, and other work products for dissemination targeting both policymakers, academic researchers, and other stakeholders, as needed.

Competencies

- Advanced knowledge of machine learning techniques and algorithms required.
- Experience developing reproducible and maintainable code required.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present data in a simple and straightforward way for non-technical audiences required.
- Strong interpersonal skills required.
- Strong initiative and a resourceful approach to problem solving and learning required.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced environment required.
- Sound critical thinking skills required.
- Strong attention to detail with superb analytical and organization skills required.
- Familiarity with program evaluation and causal inference preferred.

Education:

Bachelor's degree in computer science, statistics, data science, economics or a closely related field required, Master's degree preferred.

Technical Knowledge or Skills

Proficiency with statistical data analysis and machine learning using Python or R is required. The ability to work in both is preferred.

To Apply

We seek a diverse pool of applicants who wish to join an academic community that places the highest value on rigorous inquiry and encourages a diversity of perspectives, experiences, groups of individuals, and ideas to inform and stimulate intellectual challenge, engagement, and exchange.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status or status as an individual with disability.

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The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity / Disabled / Veterans Employer.

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and reference contact information to UChicago's Workday system. Within the Workday system, this listing can be found by the position title or by the requisition number, JR15023.

If you have an active UChicago Workday account, you will need to complete the Internal Candidate application process. Simply log in to Workday and select the career worklet to begin.

External candidates should apply at https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External.

If you have questions about the Workday system, please contact our Shared Services department at https://services.uchicago.edu

Job seekers in need of a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process may contact the Shared Services Office by calling 773-702-5800 or by emailing sharedservices@uchicago.edu with their request.