



# Northeast Student Data Corps

## Processes and Procedures

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# What is the NSDC and what does the NSDC do?

The Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub hosted at Columbia University in the Data Science Institute plans to engage the collaborative community across the Northeast Region including academia, industry, and communities, to develop a Data Science Corps (DSC) to help build a strong data science infrastructure and workforce, teaching data science fundamentals to students across the region, with a special focus on underserved institutions and students. The DSC ecosystem will include industry and academic leaders to enable the pedagogical approach and materials, and grad students who will, in turn, teach data science online to underserved institutions and students across the region, with an eventual opportunity to leverage data science in communities to address the societal challenges and opportunities we face today and into the future.

The Data Science Corps will strengthen the ability of our students, higher ed institutions, and communities to learn the basics and practical use of data science to benefit our communities and society.

There are three project activities in the Data Science Corps program.

1. Build a curriculum leveraging academia and industry-generated pedagogy and materials to teach data science fundamentals, as well as translational data science with pertinent use cases. These use cases will be generated in collaboration with the Northeast Hub's focus areas of Health, Urban to Rural Communities, and Responsible Data Science including Security + Privacy + Ethics. The DSC will be a program in the Education + Data Literacy focus area. (see <http://nebigdatahub.org/about/> to read about the NEHub's focus areas).
2. Build a Data Science Corps team of grad students to teach data science remotely to institutions and students lacking strong data science programs. A special focus includes outreach to smaller institutions, HBCUs, MSIs, and HSIs, where there is a lack of data science curriculum and support. This Student Data Science Corps will leverage and help develop the curriculum from project activity 1 to teach data science.
3. Build an outreach committee to identify and enable collaborations with institutions and students interested in engaging the DSC to increase data science education and knowledge. This may include community and government engagement to identify data science use cases of importance to the local community, providing real work examples to teach practical, translational data science goals and methods.

## Mission/Vision Statement

By enabling data science students, and engaging professionals in real-world data science implementation projects, the *Data Science Corps* aims to help bridge the data-to-knowledge gap in organizations and communities at all levels. These projects will eventually empower better use of available data assets for more effective decision-making.

## NSDC leadership structure

The Founding Committee of the Northeast Student Data Corps consists of 28 members from different sectors, industries, and professions who have come together to cultivate a community of diverse insights and perspectives. Responsible for planning, designing, and launching NSDC activities in partnership with the leadership of the Northeast Big Data Hub, each member constitutes one or more of the following teams: Content & Pedagogy, Outreach, and Peer Instructors & Mentoring. The Founding Committee's wide array of contributions—from the cultivation of data science learning materials, to the Data Science Career Panel Series outreach initiative—collectively creates a groundbreaking and inclusive new program in data science. Learn more about the members [here](#).

## How to get engaged

Faculty and professionals: Can present on or attend our data science career panels. Can also serve as an advisor for an NSDC chapter at your academic institution or your community. Students: Attend data science career panels. Students with data science experience can volunteer to make videos on data science, and many more, for the [Volunteer Central](#). Students can also start or join an NSDC chapter at their institution or in their community.

## NSDC Chapter system

Each chapter plans to extend the mission of the NSDC by creating a community of support for chapter members and extending it through local community- development initiatives. These initiatives aim to educate underserved and underrepresented learners in data science fundamentals and provide them with mentorship, research, and career opportunities in data science.

### ***How to start a chapter***

To learn about how to start or join a chapter, see the NSDC Chapter Charter Template [here](#).

### ***What is the chapter approval process?***

After the submission of the chapter application, the NSDC Central team will review the application based on the requirements outlined in the starter kit and the potential to reach the goals of the NSDC.

### **Expectations of chapters**

1. Time commitment: To start off, chapters should aim to meet monthly or bimonthly. Student leaders of each Chapter should plan to spend 5-10 hours a month to develop and lead their chapter. As the NSDC Chapters develop and expand, each organization will be able to regulate its own scheduling and agendas.
2. Extending outreach: Chapters will promote NSDC materials and events to Chapter members and the community. This includes sharing resources, activities, and initiatives such as:
  - a. NSDC's [Learner Central](#), [Educator Central](#), and [Career Central](#)
  - b. Mentoring and volunteering opportunities found on NSDC's [Volunteer Central](#)
  - c. The NSDC Data Science Career Panel Series
  - d. Other NSDC and NEHub-related events found on <http://nebigdatahub.org/>
3. NSDC community-wide contributions: Chapters should plan on doing at least one of the following that will be shared with the broader NSDC community:
  - a. Gather and/or create use cases.
  - b. Premiere on a Data Science Career Panel Series event.
  - c. Create one or more videos on the data science curriculum.
  - d. Construct other data science-related activities that will positively impact a community of learners.