

ASA Master's Survey Results - Qualitative

ASA 2017-2018 Masters Follow-Up Survey

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Q13 - Please describe your job search experiences, including what helped you locate and secure the position you held as of March 6, 2019.

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Already held the position while completing the degree.

Linkedin

Data Science

I used job search websites including Indeed, Glassdoor, Monster, and LinkedIn. I searched for jobs that were related to statistics, biostatistics, and data analytics. Since I did not have work experience related to my degree, I emphasized my skills in my resume. I reviewed my SAS programming and statistical analysis skills learned from graduate school to help me prepare for interviews as well.

I was working full time at another company and was not actively searching for another position. A recruiter contacted me and presented an interesting position that I pursued and was made an offer soon after.

It was not a picnic but there was definitely interest. I am in a location without a massive tech / analytics presence which made it more difficult. I had offers in NYC as well as rural manufacturing plants. I took the job now to stay with my girlfriend.

Used to be an analyst intern working at the Georgetown University

introduced by my friend and passed the test. basically it helps a lot on passing the paper test and the interview.

Online postings from employer.

research assistant and teaching assistant

Internship

moved within the same company

Online applications, large job search engines, employee referrals

Found the job via online listing. Clinical trials knowledge, experience in real projects through internships (especially at the NIH) were very important. Just as important to getting the job were soft skills, especially the ability to communicate to different types of people.

I reviewed my university's career services website. I also considered a job offer from an internship that I had held in a previous summer break.

It honestly felt like a combination of persistence and luck.

I was working full-time and did my masters on the side. I was already employed.

Took about 8 months to find a job, mostly searched through Indeed.com

I have been at the same institution for more than 20 years. The purpose of the masters in applied statistics was to upgrade my knowledge and skills.

I was employed while attaining my masters degree, I did not seek other employment.

I went to different company websites and applied. I looked for statistician positions, but could only advance in interviews with data analyst roles.

Indeed and LinkedIn

Working as a scientist in FDA gives me opportunity to learn new techniques and practice what I learned from school.

Hard to find a job in the stats field because of the lack of applied statistical skills and programming skills in a real world setting. Networking and recommendations from professional connections helped the most.

I had internship at a CRO the summer before that I found through a contact from a previous employer. I was offered a position at the CRO. I applied to a few additional companies through their website and through LinkedIn. I also applied to GSK from an email sent to the UNC biostatistics department. I heard back from GSK and decided to take this job.

Internship in Analytics and Good academic background.

I started looking in October 2019 and got an offer from Highmark in December. I heard about and applied for my position through a family friend with a connection in the company.

Lots of interest and phone interviews, a few onsite / face - to- face interviews but a little luck for the real thing ...

Course projects in computer vision Summer internship

Wasn't much of a search. I applied for several. I was offered a different position where I already work and I took that.

Search job online and send resume to their company

Indeed.com was helpful in locating jobs related to my field in my area. I applied to approximately 30 positions, heard back from a third of them and interviewed at 3.

I started applying in Nov 2017 and started to get offers in Feb 2018. Accepted and started my current job in March 2018. It is not hard. Pitt Public Health has a career service office helped me with my resume, cover letter, and interview preparing pretty well. All onsite interviews turned into offers.

Not fun is the best way to put it. What helped me secure this job was the previous analyst was not great so they were desperate to fill the position quickly.

I was out of a permanent job for close to a year. I got my foot through the door because my sister is an employee of company.

I think I had pleasant experience with job searching. Used Indeed (company that I am working for) and LinkedIn to look for postings. I had good combination between Computer Science and Statistics. And my research experience under data science institute helped me out as well.

I applied to 2 postdocs and accepted on at Duke University (this was my top choice).

Applied online and personally wrote to project heads. Got a position within a short time after interview.

I was job searching for about 3.5 months, looking for positions on various job boards and websites. I was recruited to apply to my current position at the beginning of my search while attending JSM 2017 where I ran across a Census Bureau booth.

I was already working in this current job.

My internship that I first got in contact with through a Miami University speaker pretty much just turned into a job

I was offered the first position I applied to. My research experience and competency with Statistical R were key in securing this job offer.

JSM recruitment section Openings emails through university department head Recruiter Google Jobs (successful)

I was applying a few months before graduating, but my impending graduation helped me get more call backs.

Professional networking was key

I applied to several local school districts for a high school math teaching position. I found a list of open positions at the career center of my undergraduate college. This was before my master's degree; I did not change positions as a result of the degree, just accepted a raise in pay in my current position.

The university career services portal (this helped me obtain my current position), my personal connections (this helped me obtain my current position), my former university's career job portal.

I actually work for the school I graduated from for one of the professors. She gets one student per year for an agreement.

This was the only position I applied for.

Research internship

Difficult partly because of having a pregnancy belly showing. Finally received offer after pregnancy. Thank you cards and follow up emails after interview helped secure position.

lindedin; indeed

I applied online to various hospitals and academic institutions. If possible, I tried to get in contact with an employee there through mutual connections. Ultimately, I accepted a position that was offered to me by a professor in my graduate program.

I was hired by one of my master's degree committee members.

Asking friends for referral and hunting job on LinkedIn or company's website.

It was difficult to find a job paying over 40,000 I was unemployed from August to February

Indeed and networking.

I looked at linked in then I would go to the companies websites to see if the jobs were still posted. The companies I knew of I just went straight to their website like my current company and applied directly through their online portal.

By making a large sample...

I applied for PHD program in my department for further reseach. and I succeed.

Real-world capstone projects and intensive training and knowledge about data science during the program

It was a position I had before graduation.

I used a lot of job search tools, from LinkedIn to Indeed to Glassdoor to CMU's Handshake job search portal. The last is where I ultimately found the job I am working at now. As I'm sure many would agree with, the job search was pretty demoralizing at times with the internet's wide variety of poorly designed online job application forms, unclear or lackluster job descriptions, and rejection responses. However, the interview experiences I did go through were generally pleasant (phone screenings, code tests, etc)

Academic projects

I applied to the first job position in Nov 2017 and had the offer in Jan 2018 and accepted in Jan 2018. If I had not gotten the offer I would have applied to more positions, but since I got my first pick I ended my job hunt.

Job search is hectic but the degree equipped me to answer the foundational questions in statistics and data science during interviews and helped me stand out. I feel the focus on professional skills in the work place at the MSP program was important as well. While one of the jobs I got was through on campus hiring, the other one was through networking.

My job search was competitive, and it was difficult to find any employment as most employers wanted someone with a PhD and at least 2 years of experience.

I worked in the same organization as a data manager before joining Brown for my masters degree. I assumed the role of statistician when I returned from Brown.

It was a terrible, tedious process. The expectations, of what a master's in statistics should know for most of the available jobs, were far higher than what I had actually learned at my program. It was a relief that my current workplace decided to hire me.

email

Already employed

2 years of experience working as a research assistant at a local department of health

Industry experience and connections. Also, machine learning and programming skills

Hard Connection

Contacting previous employer

It was a tiresome, tedious process. I took the first job offered to me, and relocated within a few weeks.

A lot of people reached out to me on LinkedIn who were interested in setting up interviews for positions they had available. That's how I got my current job.

Really hard to find a job I had to stay in the company I was working previous my master

Alumni, Networking Events, Campus Recruiting

It was rather long and difficult. I searched data analyst, data scientist, quant analyst and machine learning engineer positions. Data analyst usually requires some industry experience or understanding. Data scientist position always tends to find a PhD. And machine learning engineer requires coding ability. I finally got the current position by practicing coding and deepening understanding of machine learning.

Online job posting

Actively looking through online job search, interactive cycle of resume critique, mock interview with peers.

programmer

(1) Networking (2) 10+ years of industry experience (3) Dual education in geology & statistics

I applied to many companies through Indeed.com, at least 100. I sent out resumes and followed up with companies a week or 2 after.

I have been employed in the position I held as of March 6, 2019 since 2004. I have periodically looked for other employment, but since I work for the federal government hiring can be slow and hiring considerations are often based on factors other than educational qualifications, such as whether or not an applicant is a veteran.

I was already employed as I started my Master's degree which was partially funded by my employer via reimbursements. I found a position as a data scientist as part of an internal move.

Same employer since before obtaining MS degree in Statistics

Job searches for "data"

I talked to people I knew in industry

Used handshake and applied through company websites. Found job on handshake (Portland state)

Initially, I was applying to 5-6 data analytics positions across the country a week during my last semester in grad school. There were weeks I would hear nothing from employers and weeks I would hear back about interview

opportunities. I started getting the most responses from employers around March and April of 2018 before I graduated in May 2018. Having alumni connections that worked at my current employer now helped me land and accept my current position.

I applied for 300 positions and got one interview and that is the position that I'm in.

I started looking for and applying to jobs a couple months before receiving my degree. I used GlassDoor, mainly. I was interested in survey statistics, preferably contracting for government surveys. I was also interested in only a couple different locations in which to settle. I applied for my current job (my dream job, actually) through their website online and heard back from them later that week saying they wanted to do a phone interview with me. At that time I had a few other companies requesting phone interviews, but this was the job I wanted. After the phone interview they flew me out for an in-person interview. Within a couple weeks they called with a job offer. I did not interview any place else.

I was employed before enrolling, and I kept working for the same company after completing my degree.

I was able to find a position at my employer as a Statistician after doing a short term rotational assignment.

Networking with classmate from the program got me an interview

A relative emailed me within the first week of my job search letting me know of an open position nearby. I applied, and was hired within a month.

I have held this position since 1997, long before my Master's degree. I found the opening through my undergraduate school's career center. I applied and interviewed for several different secondary math tracing positions before I found this one.

linkedin profile up to date along with C.V. Research papers listed in CV including some as first author. Years of experience in research helped even before obtaining masters degree in applied statistics.

I accepted the position prior to starting the Master's degree. My past experiences and education helped me secure that position.

Look through job market online and submitted resume to the position I interested

I was already in a career, the MS was continuing education.

Search was only ~60 days, primarily through LinkedIn and recruiters. In addition to the two offers, I received ~5 screenings or initial interviews.

Already had this job prior to graduation

statistic knowledge, coding skills and practice

It was a long search. It took many months to be hired in this field. What helped most was advice from other alumni in my area who worked in the same field.

I have a stable job.

Mainly got replies from campus recruitment. I was trying to apply for at least 10 jobs online every day but can only get less than 5 interviews every week. The key point is to seize any chance you have.

Applied to hundreds of positions via company websites and job boards. Applied to this position via LinkedIn.

Prior internship experience helped me discover current job. Job search included searching various platforms including Indeed and LinkedIn

career fair on campus

I did not have a lot of time to do job search, because the program was intense. I only applied to one job and got it. I was vocal about my intention to teach. When a position opened up, the department reached out to me and I applied for it.

Having previous job experience, I leveraged my network to find positions and companies to apply to.

applying online through employers' websites; browsing indeed, glassdoor, linkedin

Networking at school sponsored career fairs.

indeed, linkedin

My internship through OHSU and the close ties between OHSU and the Portland VA helped me get this position.

I obtained a job after an internship, the offer was enticing enough that I accepted without applying to other positions.

My job search was very easy. I found a job in the field I was in, in a location I wanted to be in. It was the first and only job I applied to and I received an offer.

Most helpful experience: 1. Intern experience in similar field to future jobs 2. RA experience during study 3. SAS certificate

Networking, networking and networking.

Networking, applying through indeed. Ultimate job I took I was referred to by a friend.

What is more important is the previous working experience, it is hard to have an interview without much working experience. Also, I decided to pass the SAS base and advanced certification, which I guess help me a lot.

This was the first job I applied for. I accepted the offer early in the beginning of 2018 and did not do any other job search.

Did not give up any change of application and interview. Prefer to stay in NC after graduation so accepted this job.

Applying to many jobs on LinkedIn and other job search websites, attending career fairs, following up on contacts and allowing Michigan biostats alumni to email on my behalf

Google searching while finishing up grad school and working 30+ hours a week. Luckily I found three positions that suited my need and went forward with one of them.

I used a mix of google, LinkedIn, and Glassdoor. I went through the full application process for only 1 company and accepted the job offer.

My department had an open lecturer position and I found out about it via my grad school list serv

the location and coursework

social network

I applied online for most of the positions, but the jobs that I received interview are referred by alumni. Most of the alumni are connected through Wechat. LinkedIn is not very helpful. My current position is refer by classmate

I applied for several jobs at nearby universities. I heard from one and was offered a job quite early, so I didn't apply for more positions.

I applied to jobs I found through the UCLA career portal, LinkedIn, Indeed. I also applied to jobs at companies I specifically looked for. I was interested in moving back to the SF Bay Area.

linked in ; glassdoor

Applying for a program seeking candidates directly out of graduate school was the key to my getting a quick job offer.

My analytical skills helped me secure this position.

Received an email advertising the position as part of a listserv. My job search almost exclusively involved colleges, since I also have a master's in Higher Education.

I was offered a job interview following a chance meeting at a conference. I decided to take a gap year between Master's and PhD as a result of the subsequent job offer (rather than planning the gap year and seeking jobs to fill it), and therefore did not undertake a standard job search.

Early engagement in interviews (starting on the beginning of my second year in the MS program)

The school's career service center is a great help. They helped me write my resume and revise cover letters, one-to-one mock interviews and etc.

Use the connections.

Looking through employer career websites, then relying on search engines if I needed to. Keeping track of employment opp emails at BU.

bbbbbbb

LinkedIn is where I did all my job hunting. Interviewed at 20+ places over the course of a year. ~6 offers.

I hold a Master in Statistics and PhD in Chemistry. I searched for job openings mainly in Indeed. I usually got interviews from well-renowned companies (Ex: World's largest winery, World's largest producer of medicine and vaccinations for pets and livestock, A National Laboratory). Even though the job posting required a PhD in Statistics or MSc in Statistics and 3 years or more experience, I was invited for the interview without any experience. However, I missed the opportunities as the employer found a candidate with more experience than me. I believe that employers who selected me for the interviews were very interested in my multidisciplinary background. I recently started my new job at a well-renowned multi-national medical device company. Before this job, I worked for a small pharmaceutical company (with less than 200 employees) for one year. The experience I gained in that small company was invaluable in getting selected for the current position in my current company. There were many advantages of working for my first employer (pharmaceutical company) as a fresh graduate. I got an opportunity to work with people from many disciplines and different level within a short time period, got an opportunity to have hands-on experience in many tasks since our statistics team was small, and I could work under moderately fast phase. I worked on clinical trials in my first job and currently I am working on clinical trials in the current company. Performing an internship / performing statistical consultation work helps a lot in getting a full-time job offer.

Contact former employer

Found the posting for the job I eventually accepted on Reddit of all places. Before then, I had used Indeed, LinkedIn, and various company/recruiter websites for job searching, and aside from one other offer nothing really panned out with those services.

I only applied for one job and took the offer. I took the job before I even finished the degree.

I primarily looked for positions (including the position I accepted) on the career pages of the organizations for which I was interested in working, but also checked out opportunities on LinkedIn.

I had an internship with the company the summer before; they came to campus to recruit the year before

I had an awful time. It took a year, then I got a job through a contracting agency.

I applied to a lot of jobs in Boston, but only had 1 interview and 1 offer. I believe this was because there are so many qualified applicants in Boston in the field of Biostatistics, it seemed very competitive. I ended up deciding to move to Charleston, SC, where I received a job offer to the only job I applied to, the company I work for has said they have a hard time finding masters level biostatisticians. I found the job posting by doing research and sending a email to the Director of the department instead of submitting an online application.

For my job search, I used a lot of the popular job sites: LinkedIn, Glassdoor, and Indeed. These allowed me to search for jobs that fit my background and apply to a wide variety of job positions. What helped me the most was constantly applying for as many jobs that fit my background and continually reviewing my skills I had learned in my Masters Program.

I was a previous intern at the company I am currently working in. I was fortunate enough to be a part of a school that joined forces with this company to create an internship program, which transitioned into a full time employment.

Publish resume on websites; Apply for positions online.

I got job interviews and offer from applying for positions posted on Handshake-Johns Hopkins University

Start early. Glass door is great. Try to think like a person in the position you want. Example: business think it terms of profit.

I only applied to jobs in the city where I attended school due to family circumstances so my job application scope was limited. I applied to 42 positions without success. Some of my friends were friends with the person who eventually hired me so I think that helped me secure that position.

I applied more than 50 jobs included academia and industry before graduated in UF. The location I chose relay on my family's decision. My family locate in Great Boston area.

I applied for a few jobs in October specifically in the San Francisco area, including the one I accepted. I had found out about the position because of an email my department sent out advertising the position. This position moved quickly and about 2 or 3 weeks after I applied they had interviewed me and offered me a position and asked me to make a decision in a week. Because I was considering doing a PhD and the position was a research fellowship, I thought it would be good to take this opportunity to help me decide if I wanted to pursue a PhD.

Academic research Publications Networking Seminars Blog post of my statistical analysis

I secured this job by converting my internship.

Tough to find a job in a small market, I hold my current position due to my ability to predict and analyze large datasets.

Held position before master's degree and they gave me scholarship for graduate school with the condition that I return to work for them for 2 years minimum

I was able to land my first interview because of a friend that was working for the company. The company also recruits at BYU every year.

Browsed websites such as Indeed and LinkedIn; found posting for current job on LinkedIn and was offered a position within three weeks of applying

- I went to a couple of job fairs - I attended some seminars given to grad students by employers - I searched online (Indeed, GlassDoor, LinkedIn, KSL classifieds), where I eventually found my current job (on GlassDoor, and later at a job fair).

I was living out of state, so the biggest help was online job postings.

Luck

Nepotism

Primarily searching on LinkedIn, Glassdoor, indeed, etc. for job postings in the area I wanted to work in. Limited assistance from my university.