



# EASTERN UNIVERSITY

# DATA PULSE

## 2024 SPRING 2

### FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In this edition of The Pulse, I'm taking a slightly different approach. Instead of the usual focus on updates or insights from our side, I'm turning the spotlight onto you—our students. You're not just learners but innovators at the frontier of technology in your respective fields. Your engagement with artificial intelligence (AI) in your workplaces and projects provides a unique, real-world perspective that is incredibly valuable not only to your fellow students but also to us as educators and administrators.

Everyone has been experiencing this recently: the rapid integration of AI across various sectors is transforming the way we work, think, and solve problems. However, among all members of the EU community, those of you reading this are often among the first to experiment with and apply the newest AI tools and methodologies in your work environments. Recognizing the depth of insight and experience within our student body, we are eager to learn from you. How are you leveraging AI in your current roles? What challenges and opportunities have you encountered? Your answers to these questions will not only enrich our learning community but will also guide us as we strive to make our curriculum as relevant and forward-looking as possible.

At our University, the push to integrate AI more extensively isn't just a goal—it's becoming our reality. Across departments, we're exploring how AI can enhance teaching methodologies, streamline administrative operations, and provide more personalized learning experiences. This initiative reflects our commitment to staying at the forefront of educational innovation, ensuring that our institution remains adaptive and responsive to the changing and increasingly competitive higher ed landscape.

Within our MS in Data Science and MS in Data Analytics programs, our ambition to incorporate more AI is twofold. First, we aim to showcase AI as a powerful tool that can supplement and elevate the skills we already teach. From data analysis to predictive modeling, the potential for AI to enrich our curriculum is boundless. Second, we aspire to equip you with the knowledge and confidence to use AI creatively and ethically in your future endeavors. We currently focus on this in DTSC 690 and also hope to explore these issues across courses in the future.

To make these goals a reality, we need your input. Your experiences with AI are a window into the practical applications and challenges of these technologies. By sharing your stories, you'll not only contribute to the collective knowledge of our community but also influence the direction of our programs. How can we better prepare our students for the AI-driven future? What AI skills and concepts do you believe are essential for your success? Your feedback is crucial as we navigate this journey together.

As we look to the future, I'd be proud to collaborate with you to ensure that our programs not only keep pace with technological advancements but also lead the way in innovative and ethical AI education. Your insights as students and professionals are key to this endeavor. So please, reach out to your professors, staff, or come directly to me, and share your thoughts and experiences.

**DR. GREG LONGO, MSDS & MSDA PROGRAM DIRECTOR**



## COURSE ASSISTANT SPOTLIGHT

### Academic and Professional Journey:

I hold a degree in CS, an MBA in Finance and Banking, and an MSDS from EU. Currently, I am the Data and Advanced Analytics Manager for Itaú (the largest bank in the Southern Hemisphere) overseeing operations in Latin America. I lead a team of approximately 24 data professionals. [Connect with me on LinkedIn!](#)

### My Involvement in Education:

Regularly, I engage in sharing biblical messages of hope, grounded in faith and scripture. This endeavor is a significant part of my life, offering both personal fulfillment and the opportunity to impact others positively. I have also been a Course Assistant (GA/AA) at Eastern University for about two and a half years, spanning roughly 15 terms, where I engage and assist in data science courses.

### Pros and Cons of My Role:

The ability to devise data strategies that profoundly influence entire banking enterprises is a significant advantage in my role, keeping me at the forefront of data science advancements. The primary downside is the reduced opportunity for hands-on coding and model development, which I miss greatly.

### Favorite Courses:

Choosing favorite courses is a tough call, but courses 520/685, where I serve as an AA, are particularly dear to me – they are my "precious," akin to Sméagol's treasure. Courses 580, 670, and 680 also rank high on my list - Basically, all the courses involving Python (can you tell I'm a Python guy?)

### Advice for Aspiring Data Professionals:

Commit fully to your program and believe in it. Even if you lack a technical or programming background, history shows that with dedication and utilizing all the resources and methodologies of the course, you can become a proficient data scientist or analyst.



**Rafael**

**(Rafa - "Rah-fah")**

**Rodrigues da Silva**

### Fun facts:

- Native of Santos, Brazil, the city of the legendary footballer Pelé!
- 16 years happily married
- Enthusiastic aquarists and proudly maintain a 264-gallon Amazonian aquarium in our home
- Son of Portuguese immigrants, which enriches my cultural heritage
- Speak Portuguese, English, and Spanish
- For relaxation, I enjoy sipping a hot cup of Starbucks coffee and immersing myself in the soothing melodies of folk-rock/indie-folk music, with artists like Passenger, Joy Williams, and Kate Wolf being among my favorites

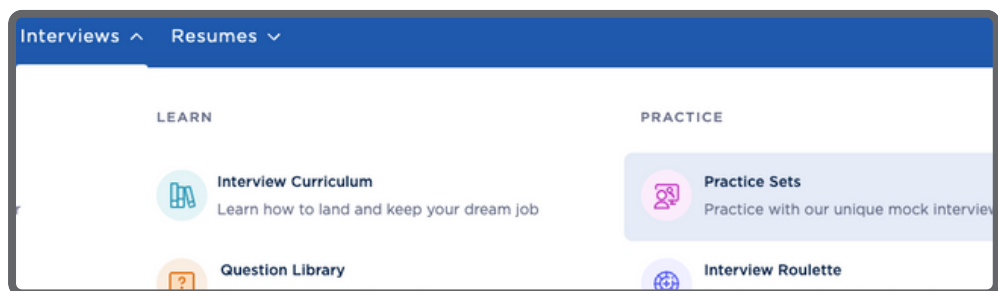
# BIG INTERVIEW: EASTERN'S VIRTUAL INTERVIEW PRACTICE PORTAL

[Click Here to create your free EU Big Interview account](#)

Big Interview helps students prep and practice industry-specific interviews. It incorporates an AI feedback feature that processes video recordings to offer immediate feedback and tips on how to improve. See the [7-Step Student Guide](#) to help you get practicing today!

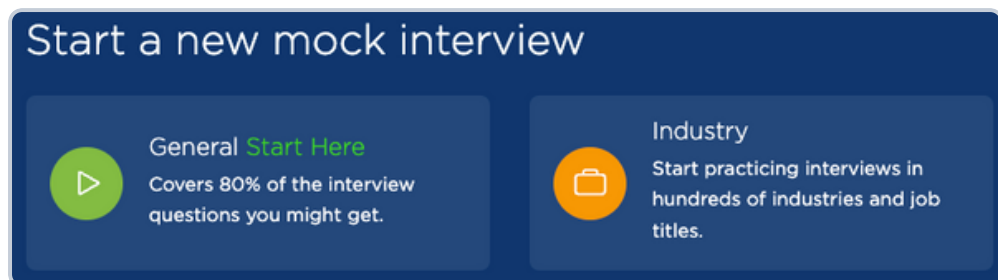
## 1. Practice Sets

Under *Interviews* on the top tool bar, click *Practice Sets*



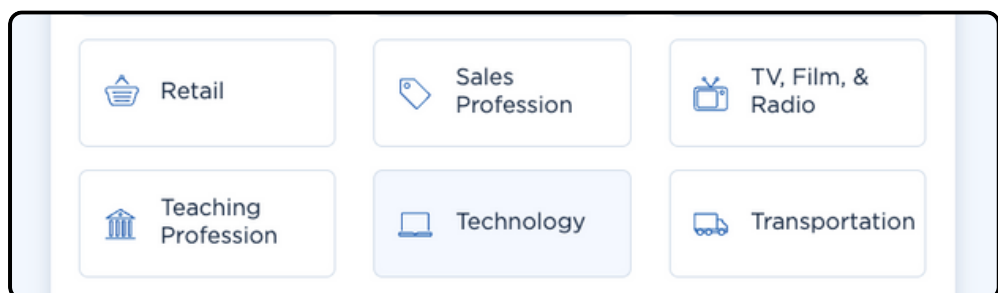
## 2. Industry

Click *Industry* to practice interview by industry



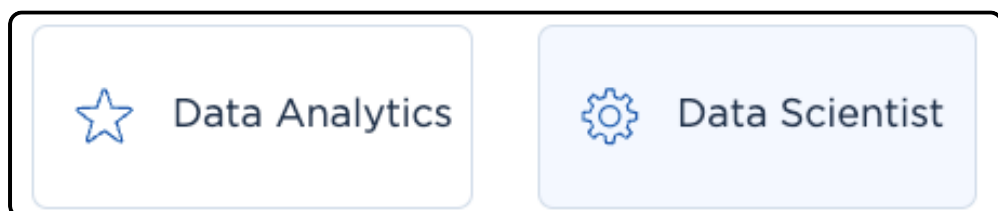
## 3. Technology

Choose the *Technology* Industry



## 4. Data Analytics/ Scientist

Choose which to practice



## NEW COURSE ASSISTANTS

- Nolan Winn: GA 520
- Gabriel Fernandez: GA 575
- Elizabeth Alvarez Hernandez: GA 600
- Cameron Hicks: GA 600
- Manuel Cortez: AA Tech Support
- Charles Dorner: AA Tech Support

## ADVISING

### Term Dates

Withdraw without academic penalty:

- April 21st by 5:00 pm ET

SP2 ends: April 21st at 11:59 pm ET

- Grades posted within 1 - 2 weeks

SU1 begins: May 13th

### Ready to Graduate?

- Complete the Graduation Application during your final term
- To access the form, log in to [MyEastern](#) and look for Academic Profile under the Self-Service menu. Graduation Application will be one of the choices underneath Academic Profile

**Number of Current Students:** 3015

### [Guide to Not Getting Scammed:](#)

Tips from EU's CIO

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!



**Leyanis Argueta**  
**Operations Coordinator**  
*MSDS & MSDA*



**Amy Gannon**  
**Student Success Advisor**  
*Dual Degree MBA/MSDS*

## FAITH AND COUNSELING

### Counseling and Crisis Services

Services through Uwill are available to all students and include 24/7/365 crisis support.

- [Click here for the Uwill website](#)
- [See the Uwill FAQ](#)
- **Uwill Crisis Line:** 833-646-1526 (outside the US, Canada and Caribbean call +1-984-268-2016)

### EU Chapel Livestream:

- [Watch Live Chapel](#)
- [Recorded Chapel \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Chapel Schedule](#)

### University Chaplain:

[Dr. Joseph Modica](#)

### Contact Us:

General Questions: [datascience@eastern.edu](mailto:datascience@eastern.edu)

Advising Questions: [dsadvising@eastern.edu](mailto:dsadvising@eastern.edu)

Fees and Billing: [student.accounts@eastern.edu](mailto:student.accounts@eastern.edu)

### Find Us on Social Media:

