

Educational Analytics Challenge

What is the FICO® Educational Analytics Challenge?

The FICO Educational Analytics Challenge was created to elevate the field of data science on college campuses and train the next generation of data scientists. The semester-long program provides student teams with real-world practitioner AI challenges and imparts technical skills to prepare them for data science careers in financial services. FICO provides weekly lectures as well as student access to FICO data scientists for technical/ project support and mentoring opportunities. Students are also made aware of career opportunities and offered sessions to improve their resumes and interviewing skills. The project concludes with the students presenting their findings in the competition to judges FICO Chief Analytics Officer Dr. Scott Zoldi and the FICO mentors. The students will receive competition prize money, as well as will have the opportunity to participate in FICO social media activations.

What institutions have participated?



What are they saying?

“The FICO Analytics Challenge helped influence our data science minor here at Alabama A&M University by providing interest from folks outside of our traditional computer science or engineering areas.”

-Dr. Andrew R. Scott, Professor and Chairman, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Alabama A&M University

“Our [FICO] mentors were amazing. They were always a great help and provided feedback every step of the way. Our mentors helped shape our experience – whenever we got stuck on something, they were there to help and explain.”

-Carl Jennings, Analytics Challenge student participant, Delaware State University



What skills do students need to participate, and how long is the project?

Students often have completed an introduction to a data analytics and/or statistics course and are proficient in Excel. Proficiency in Python and/or other programming languages is helpful. The challenge is designed to run for 12 weeks.



How is the FICO® Educational Analytics Challenge promoted?

FICO works with each school's communications professionals to promote the project across a variety of media channels through press releases, school visits, and student/professor interviews with Dr. Zoldi on LinkedIn.

Interested in participating in the FICO® Educational Analytics Challenge?

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