The ability to extract actionable insights from data makes you the go-to source for your boss (and boss’s boss) to understand what the data really means for your business.

Communicating data points into a meaningful story is essential. Presenting your team with graphs and comparisons transforms the numbers into useful information.

It’s not surprising to discover that data skills have become an essential component to staying competitive in the business world. Businesses are constantly looking for employees who can work with data in various settings—from analysis to reporting. As you begin your search for a graduate program, you need to ask yourself, “Is the program I am considering going to give me real-world experience with data? Will these experiences make me a more marketable job candidate?”

Going beyond just reporting the numbers means identifying gaps and offering ideas to solve operational pain points. Providing creative solutions to complex issues based on the data makes you an asset to your company.

Being comfortable using the available tools at your disposal inspires confidence in your skillset. This could be as simple as knowing your desktop computer and having a general passion for learning the latest innovations.