

This course catalog is currently under review with the Nebraska Department of Education Private Postsecondary Division. It is provided for informational purposes only and reflects programs and policies submitted for approval. Final approval is pending, and content is subject to change.

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2026 Course Catalog

www.canlearnsmart.com

1402 Jones Street, Suite 220
Omaha, NE 68102

Omaha Data Science Academy is accredited by the Nebraska Commissioner of Education under the provisions of sections 85-1617 through 85-1621 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 41, Section 009.

Updated: 12/08/25 Catalog# G6v1

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The Omaha Data Science Academy may update this catalog as necessary. Students will be notified of any material changes in writing prior to the effective date, in accordance with Nebraska Rule 41.

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The ODSA History and Mission

As data scientists, the founders of the Omaha Data Science Academy (ODSA) have been part of the data science¹ community since D.J. Patil and Jeff Hammerbacher coined the term in 2008. In the beginning, individuals and companies struggled; the field was so new there wasn't structure or clear leadership around how to do projects, who should do them, how to add this capability to companies, or even why capability should be added. There was little talent and even fewer who could help companies understand how to measure talent. There were no peers to support new data scientists or mentors to lead those entering the field. Data scientists were islands in their own companies, trying to find knowledge the best they could.

In 2016, a group of data scientists in Omaha decided to build an institution to give direction to the data science community and to help Omaha's companies compete nationally and globally. They formed the ODSA to generate the peers, mentors, and professionals--in short, the data science *community*--Omaha needs. The ODSA's two-fold mission is to make data science:

- **Accessible:** Too often, people are either unaware that data science is a viable career field or they mistakenly believe only certain people can be successful in it. This is simply not true; successful data scientists can come from all walks of life. What *is* true is that until now, the data science community has been small and insular, and has not reflected the explosive growth the field has experienced in the past decade. The data science community needs to diversify and grow. Many current data scientists did not come from universities (there was no degree locally until 2016), so the ODSA presents a unique opportunity for diverse people to enter a technical, high-paying career without expending copious time and resources required by traditional degree programs.
- **Sustainable:** For the data science community to succeed long term, the ODSA will ensure that:
 - Companies with data science teams understand how to use and implement data science into their organizations successfully;
 - Individual data scientists' training is relevant, useable from the start, and continuously developed over time;
 - The data science community is sustained and grown through peer and mentor networks, meetups, conferences, and career development opportunities such as job boards, internships, and placement assistance.

Only by having companies, individuals, and the wider community work together can data science become a thriving, lucrative field that will help our city compete globally.

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Why should I choose the ODSA?

The ODSA's mission to ensure data science is accessible means there is a path into the field for any interested person who is willing to put in the time and effort to train. The academy also is committed to growing the data science community within the greater Omaha metropolitan area so individuals are supported during the whole of their careers. At the ODSA:

1. Students learn from actual data science practitioners.

The best way to learn is directly from practicing data scientists. Many times our professors have said things like, "Let me show you a model I used for a client earlier today..." The knowledge you'll gain is relevant; our professors are working with local and national companies *right now*. The tools you'll learn on are tools being used by companies in Omaha *currently*. This makes you instantly more qualified than those who are studying data science theories.

2. We launch your career and help guide it over time.

It's not enough to gain the skills you need to land your first job as a data scientist; you also need to stay relevant and satisfied with your work to advance in your career. In short, you need a supportive data science community. ODSA helps you achieve this through:

- Opportunities for more training
- Quarterly meetups
- Yearly conference
- An online community channel
- Real world mentors
- Peer support

What the ODSA provides

The ODSA is invested in your short-term and long-term success. That's why we provide:

- *Functional* Knowledge, taught by practicing professionals, in the areas of:
 - Data Science Programming
 - Data Manipulation and Management
 - Data Visualization
 - Data Science Modeling including Machine Learning
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Data Engineering
 - Data Science Management
- Understanding that a job in data is a continual learning process, including:
 - How to continue to learn as a data scientist
 - How to do data science when traditional knowledge doesn't yield good results

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- **Mentor Network**
 - Contemporary Analysis
 - Professors
 - Presenters
 - Community-focused activities (meetups, conferences, etc.)
- **Peer Network**
 - Classmates
 - Alumni Network
 - Practicing Professionals
 - Omaha Data Scientists Users Group
- **Career Guidance--while we don't guarantee employment, we do offer:**
 - Continuing Education Opportunities
 - Local Job Board Access
 - Resume and LinkedIn update assistance

VA approval of a program does not guarantee employment or imply any federal endorsement.

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2026 Calendar--Dates are approximate and subject to change²

Certificates

Data Visualization Certificate (4 weeks)	Tableau: Jan 26 - Feb 23
	Tableau: Sept 14 - Oct 7
Business Intelligence Certificate (12 weeks)	Jan 26 - April 30
	Sept 14 - Dec 16
Machine Learning Certificate (12 weeks)	Jan 26 - April 30
	Summer: Sept 14 - Dec 16
Data Engineering Certificate (12 weeks)	Spring: DE Jan 27 - May 7 + Summer: June 15 - Aug 8 + Nov 23 - Dec 16 (Cloud API)
Fundamentals of Data Science Certificate (36 weeks)	Jan 26 - May 7 BI ₊ July 7 - July 30 DE + Sept 15 - Dec 17 ML

All ODSA 303 Classes will be held in person only. See Schedule below:

Artificial Intelligence Systems and Automation Certificate (24 weeks)	Jan 27 - May 8
Agentic Artificial Intelligence Engineer Certificate (12 weeks)	Sept 14 – Dec 16
Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Certificate (24 weeks)	Jan - May 8 + Sept 14 – Dec 16

Advanced Certificates

Data Science Management 2 full days--On-Demand

Individual Skill Modules³

Data Visualization (Tableau 101)	Jan 26 - Feb 23
	Sept 14 - Oct 7

² Please see Section 3.0 in Policies to see our Observed Holidays and Weather Policies as well as Section 5.1 for minimum student requirements for module scheduling. .

³Classes run if 3 or more people are signed up. Winter and Fall modules meet 2 times per week, Summer Modules meet 3 times per week.

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Data Manipulation and Management (SQL101)	March 2 - March 25 Oct 19 - Nov 16
Introduction to Python (Python 101)	April 6 - April 29 Nov 23 - Dec 16
Data Engineering (DBA 101 Module 1 & 2)	Jan 27 - April 23 June 15 - Aug 8
Basic Model Building (Model 202)	Jan 26 - Feb 23 Sept 14 - Oct 7
Mathematics of Model Evaluation (Eval 202)	March 2 - March 25 Oct 19 - Nov 16
Cloud Solutions and API Integrations (Cloud 202)	March 30 - April 22 Nov 23 - Dec 16
Foundations of AI & Prompt Engineering (AI 303)	Jan 26 - Feb 23
Artificial Intelligence Backend Engineering (AI 303)	March 2 - March 25
Full Stack Artificial Intelligence Engineering (AI 303)	April 6 - April 29
Agentic AI: Tool-Augmented AI (AI 303)	Sept 14 - Oct 7
Agentic AI: Routing, Evaluation, and System Budgets (303)	Oct 19 - Nov 16
Agentic AI: Orchestration & Agentic Systems (303)	Nov 23 - Dec 16

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2026 Tuition and Fees

Entry-Level Certificates

	<u>Price</u>
Data Visualization Certificate	\$1,950
Business Intelligence Certificate (includes DV)	\$5,850

Professional Certificates

Machine Learning Certificate	\$8,550
Data Engineering Certificate	\$8,550
AI Systems and Automation Certificate	\$9,750
Agentic AI Engineering Certificate	\$9,750

Advanced Certificates

Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence	\$19,500
Fundamentals of Data Science Certificate	\$20,100

Individual Skill Modules

Fundamentals of Data Visualization (Tableau 101)	\$1,950
Basic Model Building (Model 202)	\$2,850
Data Manipulation and Management (SQL101)	\$1,950
Mathematics of Model Evaluation (Eval 202)	\$2,850
Introduction to Python (Python 101)	\$1,950
Data Engineering Module One (Data 202)	\$2,850
Data Engineering Module Two (Data 202)	\$2,850
Cloud Solutions and API Integrations (Cloud 202)	\$2,850
Foundations of AI & Prompt Engineering (AI 303)	\$3,250
Artificial Intelligence Backend Engineering (AI 303)	\$3,250
Full Stack Artificial Intelligence Engineering (AI 303)	\$3,250
Agentic AI Tool-Augmented AI (AI 303)	\$3,250
Agentic AI Routing, Evaluation, and System Budgets (303)	\$3,250
Agentic AI Orchestration & Agentic Systems (303)	\$3,250

**ODSA does not charge a registration fee. Tuition costs listed are inclusive of all required instructional materials. See Section 17.3 for Refund and Cancellation policies.

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Certificates and Course Description.

The ODSA prepares a person for a specific job by teaching specific individual skill modules in combinations reflecting common duties of a specific job title. We do this by using practicing professionals who teach you the skills they use every day. Below are Job Titles and their corresponding certificates. All certificates listed in this catalog are offered by an institution accredited by the Nebraska Commissioner of Education.

ODSA programs are non-college-degree (NCD) clock-hour programs.

1. Data Visualization Certificate

A Data Visualist translates complex statistics and data so that business users can better understand them and make data-driven decisions by looking at them.

Common Job Title(s): Data Visualist

Common Job Duties:

- Manage datasets
- Be proficient with data visualization software
- Understand the data's audience and purpose
- Choose the right visualization
- Make visualization easy to read

Required Completed Certifications to Enroll:

- None

Skill Modules learned in this Certificate:

- Fundamentals of data visualization (Tableau 101) **or** Power BI (PBI 101)

Duration: 24 hours. Taught 3 hours per night, 2 times per week for 4 weeks.

Cost: \$1,950.

2. Business Intelligence Certificate

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Business Intelligence (BI), *et al.* is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions, and supporting decision-making.

Common Job Title(s): Data Analyst, Business Intelligence Analyst, Customer Analyst, Research Analyst, or Marketing Analyst.

Common Job Duties:

- Find and collect data using programming (Python or equivalent)
- Store, clean, and prepare data using SQL
- Analyze data for insights
- Create data visualization
- Present findings to stakeholders

Required Completed Certifications to Enroll:

- Data Visualization

Skill Modules learned in this Certificate:

- Introduction to Python (Python 101)
- Data manipulation and management (SQL101)

Duration: 72 hours. Taught 3 hours per night, 2 times per week, for 12 weeks training over 14 weeks.

Cost: \$3,900 in addition to the Data Visualization Certificate Cost (\$1,950) or \$5,850 Total Cost.

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3. Data Engineering Certificate

A database engineer creates and manages databases for an organization. This involves designing, building, and configuring the database. This also involves monitoring security, setup and maintaining software, and products related to data movement and usage, as well as being the administrator of usage rights to the database.

Common Job Title: Data Engineer

Common Job Duties:

- Understand and install Physical Schema designs for a given Database.
- Database install, patching, high-availability & disaster recovery design, interaction with network and system administrators.
- Debugging and optimization skills.
- Extract, Transform, and Load Data

Required Completed Certifications to Enroll:

- Business Intelligence

Skill Modules learned in this Certificate:

- Data Engineering 1 (DBA1 202)
- Data Engineering 2 (DBA2 202)
- Cloud Solutions and API Integrations (Cloud 202)

Duration: 72 hours. Each module is taught 3 hours per night, 2 times per week, for 4 weeks each.

Cost: \$8,550

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4. Machine Learning Certificate

A Data Scientist builds analytics tools that utilize a company's data to provide proactive insights into customer acquisition, operational efficiency, and other key business performance metrics.

Common Job Titles: Data Scientists, ML Programmer/Specialist/Engineer

Common Job Duties:

- Work with product owners, management staff, and/or customers to understand problems they are having
- Work with data engineers, data analysts, programmers, and data visualists to help find and maintain data to be used in modeling
- Build data models including model selection, model interpretation, and model management
- Present models to staff, management, and users
- Help implement and maintain those models in the enterprise

Required Completed Certifications to Enroll:

- Business intelligence

Skill Modules learned in this Certificate:

- Basic Model Building (Model 202)
- Mathematics of Model Evaluation (Eval 202)
- Cloud Solutions and API Integrations (Cloud 202)

Duration: 72 hours. Taught 3 hours per night, 2 times per week, for 12 weeks.

Cost: \$8,550

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5. Fundamentals of Data Science Certification

Data Science is wholly different from many professions since it requires command of four distinct pillars of knowledge (Programming, Database, Data Visualization, and Machine Learning) each its own discipline. This additional certification, conferred upon students when they have completed both the Business Intelligence Certificate and the ML Certificate, acknowledges the significant time and effort spent learning how these pillars of knowledge work together to solve problems only data science can solve.

Common Job Title: Data Scientist

Common Job Duties:

A data scientist's job is to predict business outcomes so leadership can make proactive decisions and change the outcomes to their advantage e.g., customer churn, cross-sell, up-sell, re-sell, or forecasting. They do this by:

- Creating and managing repositories for data inside the organization
- Manipulate that data to better analyze.
- Build and manage models to predict outcomes
- Research potential issues and insight inside the data
- Present findings to non-technical leadership and/or users about their findings
- Implement those models/findings into the enterprise for automation and use at scale.

The Fundamentals of Data Science Certificate is conferred upon students after having completed **all** of the following certifications:

- Business Intelligence Certificate (which includes the Data Visualization Certificate)
 - 72 hours of class time over 12 weeks
- Machine Learning Certificate
 - 72 hours of class time over 12 weeks
- Data Engineering Certificate
 - 72 hours of class time over 12 weeks

Total Length: 192 hours of class time over 36 weeks.

Total Cost: The Business Intelligence Certificate \$5,850 (which includes the Data Visualization Certificate) *plus* the ML Certificate is \$8,550 Plus the DE Certificate is \$8,550 - \$2850 for Cloud in Machine Learning = \$20,100

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6. Artificial Intelligence Systems and Automation Certificate Non-College Degree (NCD), Clock-Hour Program

Artificial Intelligence Systems and Automation (303) focuses on the foundational skills required to design, evaluate, and deploy modern AI systems. This certificate introduces students to prompt engineering, structured output generation, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), embeddings, vector databases, and full-stack AI application development. Students learn how to build reliable, safe, and production-aware AI workflows that support analysis, automation, and decision-making at scale.

Common Job Title: AI Systems Engineer **SOC Code:** 15-1252 **SOC Title:** *Software Developers*

CIP Code: 11.0102 (Artificial Intelligence)

Common Job Duties:

An AI systems engineer builds and manages AI-driven solutions that support business functions such as research, automation, quality control, and internal productivity. They do this by:

- Designing and evaluating LLM-assisted workflows
- Creating structured outputs and reliability-tested prompts
- Building backend RAG pipelines using embeddings and vector databases
- Developing and deploying full-stack AI applications
- Implementing observability, logging, and evaluation frameworks
- Presenting findings to leadership and supporting AI adoption strategies

Minimum Admission Requirements (AI Systems and Automation Certificate):

- Completion of Machine Learning Certificate AND Data Engineering Certificate
- OR documented job-equivalent experience (resume + review committee approval).

The AI Systems Engineering Certificate is conferred upon students after having completed all of the following modules:

- Foundations of AI & Prompt Engineering (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks
- AI Backend Engineering (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks
- Full Stack AI Engineering (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks

Clock Hours: 72 hours **Weeks:** 12 **Delivery:** In-person only **Credential:** Certificate

Total Cost:

\$3,250 per module × 3 modules = \$9,750.

Attendance Requirement: All Artificial Intelligence courses must be completed in person. Remote or online attendance is not permitted for any AI modules.

Reporting to VA will reflect each module separately with its corresponding clock hours and tuition cost.

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7. Agentic Artificial Intelligence Engineer Certificate Non-College Degree (NCD), Clock-Hour Prgrm

Agentic AI Engineering prepares students to build advanced systems that incorporate tool-augmented AI, model routing, budget enforcement, evaluation frameworks, and orchestrated multi-agent workflows. This certificate focuses on designing AI systems that make decisions, enforce constraints, and operate autonomously within defined organizational boundaries.

Common Job Title: Agentic Systems Engineer **SOC Code:** 15-1299 **SOC Title:** *Computer Occupations, All Other* **CIP Code:** 11.0102 (*Artificial Intelligence*)

Common Job Duties:

An agentic systems engineer builds and maintains intelligent agent-based systems that extend LLM capabilities through tools, routing logic, and orchestrated decision patterns. They do this by:

- Building tool-augmented pipelines and schema-validated extraction systems
- Designing evaluation frameworks and golden test sets
- Comparing models and selecting appropriate tools based on quality, latency, and cost
- Creating routing pipelines that classify, triage, and escalate tasks
- Developing multi-agent architectures including Orchestrator, Researcher, and Validator agents
- Ensuring safety, budget compliance, and context isolation

Minimum Admission Requirements (AI Systems and Automation Certificate):

Completion of Machine Learning Certificate AND Data Engineering Certificate

OR documented job-equivalent experience (resume + review committee approval).

The Agentic AI Engineer Certificate is conferred upon students after having completed all of the following modules:

- Tool-Augmented AI (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks
- Routing, Evaluation & System Budgets (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks
- Orchestration & Agentic Systems (AI 303)
 - 24 hours of class time over 4 weeks

Clock Hours: 72 hours **Weeks:** 12 **Delivery:** In-person only **Credential:** Certificate

Total Cost:

\$3,250 per module × 3 modules = \$9,750.

Attendance Requirement: All Artificial Intelligence courses must be completed in person. Remote or online attendance is not permitted for any AI modules.

Reporting to VA will reflect each module separately with its corresponding clock hours and tuition cost.

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8. Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Certificate Non-College Degree (NCD), Clock-Hour Program

The Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Certificate is awarded to students who complete both the AI Systems and Automation Certificate and the Agentic AI Engineer Certificate. This advanced program represents full mastery of modern AI engineering—from classical LLM pipelines to multi-agent orchestration and autonomous decision systems.

Graduates gain the ability to design, build, evaluate, and deploy AI systems that incorporate retrieval pipelines, cost-aware routing, tool-augmented automation, structured extraction, evaluation-driven improvement, and multi-agent workflows.

Common Job Title: AI Automation Engineer **OC Code:** 15-1252 **SOC Title:** *Software Developers* **CIP Code:** 11.0102 (*Artificial Intelligence*)

Common Job Duties:

An AI automation engineer builds end-to-end systems that automate complex tasks and support enterprise operations. They do this by:

- Evaluating AI use cases and designing safe, reliable solutions
- Building full AI-assisted pipelines including RAG, routing, and agent orchestration
- Deploying AI applications and monitoring performance, cost, and reliability
- Integrating AI systems into existing business processes
- Communicating results, risks, and system performance to leadership

The AI Systems & Automation Master Certificate is conferred upon students after completing all of the following certifications:

- **AI Systems and Automation Certificate (12 weeks)**
 - 72 hours of class time
- **Agentic AI Engineer Certificate (12 weeks)**
 - 72 hours of class time

Clock Hours: 144 hours **Weeks:** 24 **Delivery:** In-person only **Credential:** Certificate

Total Cost:

AI Systems and Automation (\$9,750) + Agentic AI Engineer (\$9,750) = \$19,500.

Attendance Requirement: All Artificial Intelligence courses must be completed in person. Remote or online attendance is not permitted for any AI modules.

Reporting to VA will reflect each module separately with its corresponding clock hours and tuition cost.

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Individual Skill Modules

Individual skill module combinations are what makes up job readiness certificates. An individual skill module may be taken if the student only needs a specific skill or skills, but not a certificate.

Note: Students completing individual skill modules will not receive a school certificate (minus the Data Visualization Cert)

Individual skill modules are 24 hours in length and taught 3 hours per night, 2 times per week for 4 weeks.*

Module Cost by Course Level

101 Classes	202 Classes	303 Classes
\$1,950	\$2,850	\$3,250

*See www.canlearnsmart.com for the most up to date schedules.

Programming

Introduction to Python Programming (Python 101)

In this class, students will be introduced to some of the major concepts of Data Science (Python Programming, Database Management, Modeling, and Data Visualization) and some of the tools used in the profession. The tools include a crash course in the basics of programming, data structures and object oriented design, basic web development, Jupyter Notebooks, GitHub, and web scrapers, as well as functional programming concepts and key Python libraries (Numpy and Pandas). This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

Database

Data Manipulation and Management (SQL101)

This class teaches a student how to store and transform data specifically to be used in modeling. Students will learn database design, SQL queries, different schemas, data cleaning techniques, and data appending. The class also will introduce a tool called Dataiku, a data platforming tool used for easier data engineering and visual/drag and drop data science. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

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Data Engineering

Data Engineering (DBA1 & DBA 2 202)

Data Engineering is quickly becoming a highly sought skill. A Data Scientist's best friend, a Data Engineer not only designs and manages the data sources Data Scientists use to run their algorithms, but they also extract, transform, and load the data; manage the APIs; and are usually in charge of the data and data science toolsets. This class teaches those skills as well as how to manage data flows and work with the data team to sustain modeling in the enterprise. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

Data Visualization

Fundamentals of Data Visualization (Tableau 101)

Data visualization jobs have increased 1,581% since 2011, according to Forbes, proving that this one skill alone is immensely valuable in helping key business users understand data, create corporate buy-in, and make decisions from data. In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of expressing data visually. We will teach you data design and how humans digest data--specifically, the fundamentals of data visualization design and construction, as well as best practices needed to implement them. This class uses Tableau, an industry-wide benchmark for quality visualization tools.

Power BI (PBI 101)

Power BI is a major tool for most Data Analysts to use in Data visualization, especially when the data needs significant preparation prior to visualization. This class will teach how to visualize data using Power BI and how to collect, arrange, and prepare data for visualization.

Machine Learning

Basic Model Building (Model 202)

Fundamentally, data science is using statistics and economic modeling to predict what is likely to happen next. This class will teach the student the fundamentals of how to build common algorithms inside of an industry-leading data science platform called Dataiku. This will include the basics of model evaluation, choosing target variables and characteristics, and basic machine learning. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

Mathematics of Model Evaluation (Eval 202)

This class will dive into the metrics behind evaluating an analytics model's performance using F1, Accuracy, Precision, Recall, AUC, Cost matrix, and Cumulative Lift. Students also will learn to show the steps to building, testing, evaluating, adjusting/rebuilding, re-testing, and

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re-evaluating a model. Finally, students will learn which model to use, avoiding the pitfalls of just using accuracy as an indicator. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

API & Cloud Database (Data 202)

Cloud Infrastructure and API Integration for Data Science focuses on leveraging the power of cloud platforms for scalable data science applications. It also covers the importance of APIs for data retrieval, sharing, and integration. Students will understand how to build, deploy, and Artificial Intelligence manage data science pipelines in cloud environments. This module, taken individually, does not earn a student a certificate.

Artificial Intelligence

Attendance Requirement: All Artificial Intelligence courses must be completed in person. Remote or online attendance is not permitted for any AI modules.

Foundations of AI & Prompt Engineering (AI 303)

In this module, students learn the fundamentals of modern AI systems, including how Large Language Models (LLMs) process tokens, context windows, embeddings, and structured output. Students practice prompt engineering frameworks, persona development, grounding techniques, iterative refinement, and reliability testing. Ethical use, safety, and evaluation are emphasized throughout.

Artificial Intelligence Backend Engineering (AI 303)

This module focuses on building backend AI pipelines in Python. Students design batch extraction processes, validate structured output, create embeddings, implement chunking strategies, and ingest data into vector databases. Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) techniques—including naïve and metadata-aware retrieval—are used to improve output accuracy and observability. Students learn how to diagnose retrieval failures and measure model performance.

Full Stack Artificial Intelligence Engineering (AI 303)

In this applied module, students turn backend pipelines into user-facing AI applications. Using frameworks such as Streamlit, students build stateful chat interfaces, integrate retrieval pipelines, capture user feedback, and apply safety guardrails. Additional topics include prompting defenses, evaluation sets, quality testing, deployment strategies, and cloud-ready configuration. The module concludes with a deployed AI demonstration application.

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Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AG AI 303)

Students extend LLMs with tools that process documents, enforce schemas, and produce high-quality structured outputs. This module introduces tool calling, Pydantic schema validation, contract testing (golden input → expected output), multimodal document processing, and techniques for defending against tool-based prompt injection. Students build a complete processing pipeline that integrates safety, structure, and business rules.

Routing, Evaluation, and System Budgets (AG AI 303)

This module teaches students to build cost-efficient and performance-aware AI systems. Topics include model selection, API-based inference, evaluation metrics (quality, latency, cost), multi-model comparison, routing pipelines, and enforcing decision budgets. Students build systems that classify tasks, route requests to the best model, and log decisions for audit and optimization.

Orchestration & Agentic Systems (AG AI 303)

Students design agentic systems using orchestrators, researcher agents, and validator agents. The module teaches context management, multi-agent architectures, budget enforcement, iterative research workflows, and blind validation techniques. Students design a full agentic AI system and demonstrate how context isolation, evaluation, and safety constraints are maintained.

Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Certification (AI 303 + AG AI 303)

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way every industry operates. This advanced certification is awarded to students who have demonstrated mastery across both classical AI systems engineering and the next generation of agentic automation. Students who earn this credential have completed two rigorous AI certificates: AI Systems Engineering and Agentic AI Engineering. Each provides core competencies required to design, build, evaluate, and deploy modern AI solutions at scale. Graduates learn to build retrieval-augmented pipelines, deploy full-stack AI applications, integrate multimodal tools, engineer routing and system budgets, and design multi-agent architectures for research, validation, and automated decision-making. The AI Systems & Automation Master Certification recognizes the significant time, depth, and technical specialization required to operate at this level as an AI engineer.

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Part B--Policies and Procedures

Omaha Data Science Academy is accredited by the Nebraska Commissioner of Education under the provisions of sections 85-1617 through 85-1621 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 41, Section 009.

1.0 Program Objectives

The purpose of the ODSA is to support efforts to address the tech talent shortage in the Midwest experienced by government, non-profits, startup companies, small to medium-sized businesses, and major corporations. The ODSA accomplishes this by providing job-specific training in data science led by practicing professionals, so students can gain the skills they need to secure employment and companies can fill their staffing and organizational needs.

Maximum student-to-teacher ratios for each ODSA course is 15:1

2.0 Owners & Board of Directors/Officers

2.1 Owners

The Omaha Data Science Academy is a division of Contemporary Analysis, LLC.

2.2. Advisory Board of Directors/Officers

2026 Advisory Board Members:

Nathan Watson--President, Contemporary Analysis, Dean, ODSA
Carrie Rosenberry
Nick Rosenberry

2025 Officers and Instructors:

- Nate Watson--Dean
 - 10+ years Operational Leadership
- Krystal Rider--President
 - 10+ years Operational Leadership
- Jeremy Bergmann--Instructor--SQL, Data Engineering, and ML
 - 10+years Data Science, Data Engineering
- Emily Kenney--Instructor--ML, Data Engineering
 - 9 years Data Science, ML, and Data Engineering
- Ida Angelma--Instructor--Python, SQL, Data Engineering
 - 4 years Data Science, Front End/Back End Development
- Thom Flaherty--Instructor--Python, Data Engineering, and ML
 - 8 years Data Engineer

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James Card–Instructor– SQL, Data Engineering and ML

- 10+years Data Science, Data Engineering

Sam McQuistan--Instructor--SQL,Data Engineering,

- 10 years Data Science and Engineer

Charley Burtwistle--Instructor--Data Visualization using Tableau, Power BI

- 7 years Data Visualization

Tyler Hayes-Instructor- Artificial Intelligence, Python 101

- 6+ years experience in quantitative strategy, data engineering, and machine-learning pipeline development

Instructor credentials are available for student review upon request, in accordance with Nebraska Rule 41.

3.0 Observed Holidays and Weather

The ODSA observes all federal holidays. Classes will not take place:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving (Wednesday and Thursday)
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve

Additionally, in the event of inclement weather, the ODSA will make a decision by noon on that day about class attendance based on weather forecasted and predicted road conditions. Class will be notified by email and/or phone (when available). AI classes

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4.0 Facility Description & Mailing Address

4.1. Facility Address : ODSA courses will be held at 1402 Jones St Suite 220, Omaha NE 68102 (inside the Elevator Co-Warehousing + Community on second floor)

4.2. Mailing Address: The Omaha Data Science Academy can be contacted by mail at: 1402 Jones St Suite 220, Omaha NE 68102

5.0 Class Requirements Artificial Intelligence (AI 303) courses are delivered in person only. Remote, hybrid, or online attendance is not permitted.

5.1 Number of Student Requirements

Individual skill modules will only be offered when 3 or more students have signed up for the class.

5.2 Class Materials

ODSA does not use textbooks. All instructional materials are created in-house by faculty and delivered through the ODSA Learning Management System (LMS). These proprietary materials are included in tuition and are not available for purchase elsewhere.

Students are required to have access to a personal computer that meets the minimum specifications outlined in Section 5.3 (Equipment Requirements). For students who do not have a qualifying computer, ODSA provides loaner laptops at no additional cost. Certificates of completion will not be issued until all loaned equipment has been returned in good working condition.

5.3 Equipment Requirements

Operating System Requirements:

- Microsoft® Windows 10 **OR** Mac OS X v10.11 (El Capitan) or later
- Chromebook (for Intro or Foundations courses only) with minimum 4GB of RAM & 16GB SSD
- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
- 8 GB of RAM
- 32 GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during necessary program installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices)

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6.0 Enrollment procedures and entrance requirements

Students are encouraged to visit the ODSA facility prior to enrollment. However, if this is not an option, students are given the opportunity to withdraw without penalty within three days following either the regularly scheduled orientation procedures or following a tour of the school facilities and inspection of equipment.

To begin the enrollment process, participants must apply at:

<https://canlearnsmart.com/enrollment>

Once an application is received, a member of the ODSA team will review the request and contact the applicant to discuss the program and answer any questions.

ODSA will report all enrollments, changes in enrollment status, attendance violations, academic progress issues, and program completions to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as required under 38 CFR 21.4203. VA School Certifying Official (SCO):

Krystal Rider, President Email: krystal.rider@canlearnsmart.com

The SCO is responsible for reporting enrollment, changes, terminations, and completion information to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. All students enrolling in VA-approved programs must sign an Enrollment Agreement prior to the first day of class. The Enrollment Agreement includes program details, tuition and fees, payment terms, refund policy, course dates, and student acknowledgment signatures as required under 38 CFR 21.4254.

NOTE: No applicants will be allowed to join the course after the second day of any course.

Applicants are expected to be technologically savvy. This means they generally know how to use a computer, navigate the internet, download, install, and use programs, understand how to search for (Google, et al.) and apply how-to solutions from YouTube (or equivalent).

Applicants who meet the criteria will be contacted by Krystal Rider, President of the ODSA, to complete an enrollment agreement and arrange for course payment. Training and Reemployment resources and services are available for those that qualify. ([See Section 7.0](#)). For Payment options, see [Section 17.0](#)

6.1 Admissions Eligibility – Criminal Backgrounds

Omaha Data Science Academy welcomes applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds. However, for the safety and integrity of our learning environment, ODSA will not admit applicants with convictions for violent crimes or sex offenses.

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Applicants with other types of criminal convictions may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Admissions Review Committee. Decisions will take into account the nature of the offense, the time elapsed since conviction, and evidence of rehabilitation.

All applicants must complete a criminal conviction review/background check as part of the admissions process and provide written consent for this review. This may include searches of the Nebraska Sex Offender Registry, the Nebraska Department of Corrections offender database, court records, and other publicly available criminal history databases. ODSA reserves the right to use a licensed third-party provider for background checks if necessary.

Failure to disclose criminal history, falsifying information, or refusing consent will result in denial of admission or immediate dismissal if discovered after enrollment. Applicants are also required to self-report any new criminal charges or convictions that occur after application submission or during enrollment.

This policy is consistent with Nebraska Rule 41 requirements that admissions standards be clearly and publicly stated (Rule 41-009.01B), reasonably related to student success and the protection of health, safety, and welfare (Rule 41-009.01C), and applied in a manner that is nondiscriminatory except where necessary to protect safety (Rule 41-012.01).

7.0 Training and Reemployment Resources and Services

A number of services and resources are available for reemployment/career transition seekers at both the state and local levels. To see if you qualify, go to:

<https://hws-ne.org/resources/>

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices>

8.0 Description of school's placement assistance

While placement is not guaranteed, the ODSA does commit to connecting students with employers and providing job placement assistance to the best of our abilities. This includes but is not limited to potential direct placement, connection to known associates and data science teams, invitations to various career fairs, and more. Students also can receive feedback on their resume and LinkedIn profile and be able to practice with the ODSA staff in mock interviews. ODSA does not guarantee employment.

9.0 Attendance policy

Regular and punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning process. ODSA students are expected to attend scheduled courses in which they are enrolled. If a student fails to notify the

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course instructor of an absence, the student's presence will be recorded as a no-show for the session. All refunds are based on the schedule detailed in [Section 17.3 \(Payment and Refund Policy\)](#) of the Course Catalog. **If a student falls below a 60% attendance, he or she will be dropped from the class with no refund given.** Attendance is recorded for every scheduled class session and maintained for VA reporting. ODSA will report VA students who fall below attendance requirements as terminated due to unsatisfactory attendance.

9.1 Absence Policy

Given the complexity of the material covered in the ODSA's courses, absences without a serious reason are highly discouraged. For students who are frequently absent, the ODSA instructors and administrators will determine the course of action, which will include a warning and may lead to termination of a student's participation in a course. Exceptions to this policy will be considered for absence(s) that the program faculty deems justified by illness or unavoidable emergency. In the event of a prolonged illness, the student should notify program faculty as soon as possible.

Since active participation in the academic portion of this program is mandatory, being removed from any course/workshop due to excessive absences is grounds for expulsion from the entire program without refund or recourse.

Non-attendance at required site visits, excursions, or other non-classroom activities is considered to be an absence. ODSA will promptly report any VA student who is dismissed or withdrawn for unsatisfactory attendance in accordance with VA reporting requirements.

9.2 Tardiness Policy

Late arrivals to classes are disruptive to other students and faculty. Students who arrive to class more than 10 minutes after the class starts will receive an unexcused absence for that class period, subject to review by the instructor. Timeliness also applies to onsite visits and excursions. Site visits and excursions will depart as scheduled, with exceptions made for conditions beyond ODSA's control (e.g., inclement weather).

10.0 Progress and Grading Policy

Students who successfully complete all of the technical learning (course/workshop tasks assigned by the instructor), demonstrate an understanding of course learning outcomes, and meet the minimum attendance requirements will receive a certificate of completion for the course. ODSA certifies VA students by individual module. Each module's clock hours, tuition, and dates will be certified separately to the VA.

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10.1 Progress

Instructors will provide weekly feedback to students about their proficiency in grasping the concepts of the course, with struggling students will be given additional assistance and opportunities to succeed. There will be some time available for one-on-one instruction should the need arise.

10.2 Grading

Data Scientists traditionally approach problems very differently than most other professions. They fully expect they will *not* have all the knowledge they need to solve the problem at hand and will need to seek additional wisdom to provide solutions. As such, the ODSA values the knowledge of knowing where to go when one runs out of knowledge as much or more as traditional “what to do” knowledge.

This has led the ODSA to adopt a slightly different way of grading. Instead of grades, tests are pass/fail. Passing is a cumulative grade higher than 70%. In addition, students are required to attend 75% of classes as well as conduct themselves according to Section 12.

Tests are designed to ensure that students who earn ODSA certificates have a reasonable comprehension of the material they are asked to solve, while knowing where and how to find additional knowledge when what they possess is not sufficient.

Any student who fails will be encouraged to return and retake the class. There is no charge for classes taken a second time.

11.0 System of making progress reports to students

Student progress will be reported individually and in person on a project-by-project basis for the duration of each course. Students may participate in 1–5 individual projects per course depending on the length of the course.

12.0 Student conduct policy

Since some ODSA training includes working with real businesses on real projects, students are expected to be respectful, professional, cooperative, and collaborative for the duration of the session.

Students who do not exhibit qualities expected of professionals in this situation will receive a verbal and written warning for the first incident. Any subsequent incidents may result in

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termination of course/workshop enrollment. No refund requests will be approved from students who are terminated from an ODSA course due to misconduct.

12.1 Advertising and Marketing Policy

ODSA does not engage in erroneous, deceptive, or misleading advertising, marketing, or recruitment practices. All published information, promotional materials, and statements about programs, costs, and outcomes are accurate and consistent with the information provided in this catalog.

12.2 Student conduct

ODSA does not discriminate against applicants or students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or status as a covered veteran, in compliance with 38 U.S.C. 3698 and 38 CFR 21.4201.

13.0 Readmission Policy

Students who have been expelled or voluntarily dropped from ODSA for any reason and wish to return must email Krystal Rider, President of the ODSA at: krystal.rider@canlearnsmart.com. Applications are due no less than 30 days but no more than 6 months prior to the beginning of the session in which re-enrollment is desired.

The Director will evaluate requests for readmission on the basis of the student's written statement which must list:

- compelling reasons as to why they wish to return to ODSA;
- the student indicates how and why performance will improve if readmitted;
- Requested readmission session

Once a decision has been made regarding the application, the student will be notified via email. Registration instructions will be sent when that information becomes available. The Director reserves the right to revoke any offer of readmission. The Director will review the progress of all students returning to the ODSA following expulsion. Continuation of enrollment is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the session the student is readmitted.

14.0 Student Probation Policy

Because of the speed and intensity of the courses, assignments outside of class are just as important as the ones inside of class. Students who fail to complete the assignments for that week will be notified via email that they are missing critical assignments. If missing assignments are not completed during a reasonable amount of time, the teacher does have the right to place the student on probation. Students on probation will not be allowed to pass their current course and will not be allowed to continue on to additional courses. The student can be removed from

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probation by completing the incomplete assignments at which time they will receive an email indicating they have successfully been removed from probation.

15.0 Student Record Policy

Students may request a copy of their transcript by notifying the ODSA in writing at the following email address: krystal.rider@canlearnsmart.com. The student will receive the transcript via mail at no cost.

An academic transcript will be kept for all students regardless of completion.

15.1 Academic Transcript

The academic transcript shall show:

- Name and address of the student
- Student's identification number used by the school
- Date of entry and date of exit
- Name of the certificates/ individual skill modules pursued
- Attendance
- Certificates earned
- Grades earned
- and if the student graduated, withdrew, or was terminated.

15.2 Financial Transcript

The financial records, as dictated by the state of Nebraska, shall show:

- Student's name and address
- Student's identification number
- Program of study pursued
- All expenses incurred
- All payments made

The ODSA shall maintain permanent records suitable for academic and financial records for a length of no less than fifty (50) calendar years and financial records for five (5) years after the student has departed from the school.

All Certificates will have at least a signature of the ODSA director and the school seal.

15.3 Access

The ODSA shall not release, transfer, disclose, or otherwise disseminate students' records or information contained therein, unless upon the student's written request,

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except to persons authorized or required to have such information by state or federal law or regulation, or pursuant to a court order.

This rule applies to all ODSA employees in their accessing and handling of student records, data or information in any form (paper, digital text, image, audio, video, microfilm, etc.) during the course of conducting ODSA business (administrative, financial, or teaching).

Note: Students shall have the right to review their student records, including grades, attendance, and financial records.

16.0 Credit for previous education, training, or experience

A student can petition the ODSA to take into consideration previous education, training, and/or experience for the purpose of not taking a prerequisite course. The petition may be emailed to the President of the ODSA at krystal.rider@canlearnsmart.com Permission will be granted in writing.

The Omaha Data Science Academy will evaluate all prior education and training, including military training, and will grant appropriate credit as required by 38 CFR 21.4253(d)(3). Tuition and course length will be shortened proportionately when credit is granted, and the VA will be notified of all adjustments.

17.0 Payment and Refund Policy

After payment is collected from an applicant for enrollment, the applicant will be given a receipt for the money collected and a copy of the enrollment agreement. Certificates will not be issued to any student with unreturned loaner equipment. Students using VA education benefits will not be denied enrollment, registration, continued attendance, or access to classes due to delayed VA tuition and fee payments.

17.1 Individual Pay

Any balance due after discounts or other financial assistance is applied must be paid 50% prior to the start of the course, with the remaining 50% due within 30 days of the end of the course. No student may begin another course with a balance due unless arrangements are made with ODSA prior to the start of the next course. Monthly payments are accepted through special arrangements only and must be made prior to the start of the course.

17.2 Company Pay

In the event a place of employment covers tuition expenses, balances will be invoiced prior to the start of class. Invoiced amounts are due within 30 days of the invoice date

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unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. Upon satisfactory completion of all academic and skill requirements and when all financial obligations to the school have been met, the school will award a Certificate of Completion. The student and school understand that this Agreement may not be amended except in writing and signed by both parties.

17.3 Refund Policy

Refunds will be issued on a pro-rata basis in accordance with 38 CFR § 21.4255 and the Nebraska Department of Education Private Postsecondary Career School requirements. This refund policy applies fully to students using VA education benefits and supersedes any institutional refund policy when conflicts arise. Refunds will be calculated in accordance with 38 CFR §21.4255.

- Charges for tuition, fees, and instructional materials will not exceed the proportional amount owed based on the length of the course completed.
- Refunds will be calculated to the exact day of withdrawal.
- No registration fee is charged by ODSA.
- Instructional materials created in-house and delivered through the ODSA Learning Management System (LMS) are included in tuition. These materials are not separately billed and are not refundable once a course has begun.
- If a student withdraws from a course prior to the official start date, the student will receive a 100% refund of all tuition and fees paid. Written notice of withdrawal must be submitted to the Academy before the first scheduled class session in order to qualify for a full refund.

Students using VA education benefits will not be subject to late fees, enrollment holds, withdrawal, or any other penalty due to delayed VA tuition and fee payments.

This refund policy applies to all ODSA students, including those utilizing VA education benefits.

18.0 Procedure for addressing student complaints

The student may contact the ODSA's Director regarding any concerns or complaints. Contact information is available at www.canlearnsmart.com. Complaints which cannot be resolved by direct negotiation with the school may be filed with the Program Director of Private Postsecondary Career Schools at the Nebraska Department of Education's Program Director. Contact information is available at:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ppcs/contact-us/>