Austin Herman

B.S. in Food, Agricultural & Biological Engineering (2011)
84.51o, Cincinnati, OH

Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Process Analyst:

I am a Lead Data Scientist for 84.51o. I use statistical analysis and coding languages to optimize supply chain and inventory strategies at all of Kroger's 2700+ supermarket locations. I'm responsible for making sure our development team creates solutions to improve on shelf availability of inventory, and improve store processes. We also ensure sustainability solutions through measurement and analysis.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Cross functional team leadership, Statistical Analysis, Basic Statistical Coding (R/Python), Excel, Public Speaking, PowerPoint, Engineering Economics (net present value)are all required skills/abilities for my role.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering?

I would say that FAB engineering is great because it makes you marketable. Engineering above all else teaches you how to be a problem solver, and companies today are looking for that skill. It is in high demand. I'm not a "traditional engineer" anymore, but I still have to use the math, and problem solving skills I learned in my engineering courses everyday. Ultimately, engineering opens doors to a lot of different fields because of the rigorous training you go through and the problem solving skills you obtain. In today's world I would focus on picking up some coding skills. Any electives you can take in these areas will pay dividends. Don't underestimate the power of learning how to market yourself to employers either. Being able to sell your skills can be just as important as having them in the first place.