

Technical Interviews

Technical interviews are common for health data science positions and their main goal is to test your technical skills. While these interviews are different from traditional interviews, you should prepare to answer some behavioral, experiential, and general industry knowledge questions as well. During a technical interview, you will be given a technical task to complete by your interviewer, such as analyzing a dataset, to assess your technical knowledge, skills, and abilities that are relevant to the specific job you are interviewing for. They are typically conducted virtually or in person as part of a second round of interviews. However, in some instances you may be sent the task via email and given 3-5 days to complete it. If conducted with the interviewer, the timeframe may range from 15 minutes to an hour depending on the complexity of the task. The interviewer will also be interested in assessing your thought process when it comes to problem solving so will be looking for you to be able to walk them through how you approached the problem.

Preparation for technical interviews will typically involve studying and refreshing yourself on content from related courses you have taken during your collegiate studies. One useful way to prepare is to practice sample questions from [Glassdoor](#) with a classmate who is studying the same or a similar topic, where possible. If you are no longer a current student, you may consider practicing with past classmates or colleagues should they have a background in this area. Similar to preparing for an exam, this will allow you to think aloud and share knowledge with someone who is also familiar with these skills and/or content.

During the interview, take your time constructing your responses. It is ok to ask the interviewer clarifying questions if you are not completely sure of the task or steps you should take to begin. Asking questions will also show the interviewer that you are engaged in the problem solving process. While you think through your approach to solving the technical question you are presented with, you may wish to organize your thought process by writing notes that will help the interviewer understand your problem solving technique. Once you are at a point in the problem where you feel ready to share, you can use your notes as a guide to talk the interviewer through what you did to complete the problem. Additionally, it is recommended to ask for feedback after providing your response to ensure you have not missed anything. This will demonstrate an attention to detail and a collaborative mindset.

On the other hand, if after asking clarifying questions you are still unsure of how to begin, you can explain that you are unfamiliar with this type of analysis and follow this up by giving examples of analyses and techniques that you are experienced in. You may also wish to come prepared with the story of another time you had to learn a new technical skill, and how you went about doing so successfully. This will provide the interviewer with evidence that you do not shy away from self-study, and have a history of being able to pick up new technical skills quickly and successfully.

There are various online resources available to help you prepare for these interviews:

- [CUNY Upskilling](#), is tailored to help you enroll in a variety of virtual trainings that can be completed at home and at your own pace. Subject areas with available courses include healthcare administration, data analytics, and more!
- [Thinkful](#), is an online technical training school that offers free bootcamps in various Data Science and Software engineering fields, as well as personal mentor meetings, and Q&A sessions.

Interested in discussing interviews with a Career Coach?

Schedule a 1:1 Career Coaching appointment with the Office of Career Services. [Book an appointment online now!](#)