



Report on Alumni Interaction

Name of Alumni: Dr. Ajinkya Bankar

Data Scientist at Crowley, PhD. Florida International University, USA

Expertise: | Deep Learning | Machine Learning | GenAI | Operations Research |
Yoga Instructor <https://ajinkyabankar.github.io/>

Date: 08/08/2025 Time: 2:45pm to 3:45pm

Class: Final year E&TC

Topic: Career Opportunities and Requirements in Data Science

1. Introduction

As part of the ongoing efforts to guide and mentor final-year students, an insightful alumni interaction session was organized featuring **Dr. Ajinkya Bankar**, a distinguished alumnus and accomplished data science professional. The session was titled “**Pathways of Career in Data Science and Abroad**” and focused on the various career opportunities, skill requirements, and international prospects in the field of data science. Dr. Bankar, who has academic and professional experience both in India and abroad, provided a holistic overview of this dynamic domain.

2. Highlights of Dr. Ajinkya Bankar’s Talk

A. Career Opportunities in Data Science

Dr. Bankar elaborated on the vast and growing demand for data science professionals across various industries. He described the following key roles:

- **Data Scientist** – Focuses on deriving insights using statistical modeling and machine learning.
- **Data Analyst** – Handles data cleaning, visualization, and supports business intelligence.
- **Machine Learning Engineer** – Develops and deploys predictive algorithms.
- **Data Engineer** – Builds and maintains scalable data pipelines and infrastructure.
- **AI/Deep Learning Engineer** – Works on computer vision, NLP, and advanced AI applications.

B. Required Skills and Educational Background

Dr. Bankar emphasized that data science is an interdisciplinary field requiring:

- **Educational Foundation:** A background in Computer Science, Engineering, Statistics, or Mathematics is preferred. Postgraduate degrees in Data Science or related fields give an added advantage.
- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, SQL, Java.
- **Data Tools and Libraries:** Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, PyTorch.
- **Data Visualization:** Tableau, Power BI, Matplotlib, Seaborn.

He stressed the importance of **continuous learning** and **real-world projects** through internships, Kaggle competitions, and open-source contributions.

C. Soft Skills and Certifications

He also suggested valuable certifications for students looking to strengthen their profiles:

- Google Data Analytics Certificate (Coursera)
- IBM Data Science Professional Certificate
- AWS Certified Data Analytics
- Tableau Certification
- Microsoft Data Scientist Associate

3. Pathways to Enter the Field

According to Dr. Bankar, students can enter the field through:

- **Campus Placements** in analytics, ML, and BI roles.
- **Internships** and **capstone projects**.
- **Postgraduate Studies Abroad** – Pursuing MS in Data Science or Analytics in countries like the USA, Canada, Germany, or the UK.
- **Online Courses** and **Bootcamps** for upskilling.
- **Building a Portfolio** – Contributing to GitHub, participating in data challenges, publishing mini-projects.

4. Global Career Scope

Dr. Ajinkya Bankar shared his own journey and highlighted that countries like the **USA, Germany, Australia, and Canada** offer immense opportunities in data science due to the high demand for skilled professionals and robust STEM programs. He discussed visa routes, scholarships, and how students can leverage global platforms for networking and learning.

Dr. Bankar's session was immensely valuable in providing clarity, direction, and inspiration to the students. His experience, knowledge, and down-to-earth guidance helped students understand both the **practical steps** and **strategic planning** required to build a successful career in data science, whether in India or abroad.

The department extends its sincere thanks to Dr. Ajinkya Bankar for taking the time to give back to his alma mater and inspire the next generation of data professionals.



Coordinated by:
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