How Montclair Launched a Former Music Producer's Career in Data Science at Spotify

MARC STERN

Wondering what career paths are possible with a Master's in Data Science? Learn about this graduate's journey from Montclair to Spotify.

At Spotify, Marc Stern is behind-the-scenes making sure songwriters get the royalties they deserve. "One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is knowing that my work contributes to songwriters getting what they're owed," he shares. By collaborating closely with legal and licensing teams, Marc plays a key role in ensuring the artists we listen to are compensated fairly.

"There's a pretty direct correlation of working in music for a few years, and continuously looking to engage audiences and increase streaming metrics. That led me to get really interested in the data that I was able to get from things like Spotify for Artists." Despite not having a traditional background in tech, this curiosity led Marc to pursue Montclair State University's Master's program in Data Science.

"I was looking for programs that would allow me to leverage my experience on the production side, because my background was less conventional for a career in Data Science." Once Marc gained admission to Montclair, he was set on an exciting path that blended his passion for music with his drive to dig deep into the analytics of the business.

"I use Python and SQL every day at work, and those were skills I honed during my time at Montclair," he shared. As a student in the Data Science MS program, Marc didn't just learn in the classroom—he applied his skills in the real world. He connected with a startup that was merging AI, machine learning, and music, gaining invaluable experience that set him up for success in securing a coveted spot in Spotify's internship program.

"The projects I worked on during my master's program directly helped me in my internship interviews," he notes. From getting on boarded at the startup to landing his current role as a Data Scientist II at Spotify, Marc's journey is not an uncommon one among Montclair's ambitious community of graduate students.

For those thinking about a graduate program in data science, Marc offers this advice: "Be extremely curious and take full advantage of the University's offerings, especially the professors." With the right program, Montclair can help turn your passion into a profession, just like it did for Marc.