

CAREER PATH

DATA SCIENCE



LAURA JACKSON

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ARCSIM
INTEGRATIVE DATA SCIENTIST

Dr. Laura Jackson is a bioinformatician with the University of Maine Advanced Research Computing, Security and Information Management (ARCSIM) team. She uses computers to analyze and store large amounts of biological data.

Dr. Jackson started with research in biology in college. “I learned to code out of necessity,” Dr. Jackson explained, talking about how the complex biological data sets made data management an important part of her research process. She received her masters and undergraduate degree in biological sciences from Southeastern Louisiana University before receiving her doctorate in bioinformatics from the University of South Dakota.

Dr. Jackson shares her excitement for the diversity of her job, saying, “I get to do a lot of different things. I help researchers find the best way to use their data. If someone has a programming question, I can help answer it.” She encourages more people to look into bioinformatics, especially if they’re interested in biology. “It’s an expanding field right now, and there are a lot of new opportunities.”

ASKING QUESTIONS AND EXPLORING BIOLOGY

“It’s important to be curious about the world. I think it’s important to start by asking questions. If you have a question about biology or ecology, ask it and see where it takes you.”

