



Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (OPQ)
Office of Quality Surveillance (OQS)

Application Period: May 25, 2022 – June 8, 2022

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Commissioned Corp Officers are eligible to apply.

Position: Data Scientist

Series: AD-0301

Location(s): Silver Spring, MD

Salary: Starting at:

Band A: \$74,950

Band B: \$89,834

Band C: \$106,823

Work Schedule: Full Time

Cures Band(s): Band A/B/C

Full Performance Band Level: Band C

Travel Requirements: 25% or less

Bargaining Unit: 3591

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.

Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:

[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) is responsible for regulating prescription drugs, including new drugs, generic drugs, biological products and biosimilars as well as over-the-counter drugs (OTC). CDER's drug regulatory responsibilities include premarket review of new drugs and generic drugs; maintenance of the OTC drug monograph system; monitoring of all marketed drug safety and promotion activities; review, monitoring, and enforcement of drug quality during the entire drug life cycle; and ensuring drug products in the market comply with the law.

The Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (OPQ) oversees and coordinates the overall regulation of human pharmaceutical quality within CDER, including submission review, manufacturing facility assessment, and surveillance of the quality of marketed pharmaceutical products.

The Office of Quality Surveillance (OQS) is OPQ's focal point to assure that quality medicines are available through signal detection, data analysis, review of the state of quality, and proactive stakeholder engagement.

The Division of Quality Data Science (DQDS) is the division responsible for assuring the integrity and quality of data across relevant sources by collaborating with internal and external system owners and optimizes its use in supply chain oversight. Through a robust analytics and information program, the division identifies and monitors leading indicators of quality problems or supply chain issues through the development, validation, maintenance, and operation of analytical models (e.g., predictive, risk-based, prioritization, classification) that assess site and product quality.

The Divisions of Quality Intelligence I & II (DQI-I & DQI-II) monitors quality and manages information about CDER-regulated sites and products. The staff uses intelligence collected and analytics to make data-driven decisions that can reduce risk to patients. Staff also engage with industry to encourage improved quality management maturity practices in the pharmaceutical industry and communicated the state of quality to both internal business partners and external stakeholders.

Duties/Responsibilities

As a **Data Scientist**, the incumbent serves as a specialist in the application of data science, operations research, computer science, mathematics, and statistics, to design data modeling processes, uncover hidden patterns in the data, and create algorithms and predictive models to extract insights that improve the assessment of the state of pharmaceutical quality.

- Applies knowledge of statistical modeling, descriptive multivariable statistics, feature engineering, machine learning, predictive modeling, computer science, and data mining to gather, analyze, model, interpret quantitative information, anomalies, patterns, and correlations among data sets that are managed by OQS.
- Verifies and analyzes model performance and accuracy.
- Applies modern approaches to identify emerging trends and clusters in post-market

defect reports.

- Designs drug sampling and testing plans that target low-quality and high-risk drug products.

Supervisory Responsibilities: N/A

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959 must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One-year probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
 - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
 - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

To qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as **required** is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will **not** be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:

Data Scientist (Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series), AD-0301 Series

There are no Individual Occupational Requirements for this series.

Desired Education:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

Education training or experience in such fields of statistics, or similar computationally intensive field providing the skills necessary to serve as a data scientist.

Desired Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- Ability to apply the principles, concepts, tools, and methodologies related to data science. Particular emphasis on forecasting and predictive analytical techniques, including machine learning techniques.
- Demonstrated analytical ability for independent work on complex, multipart tasks, judgement, and discretion in executing Food & Drug Law activities.
- Ability to select, interpret, and apply relevant guidelines to determine appropriate course of action.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively across organizational boundaries.
- Skill in oral and written communication sufficient to present technical information or recommendations, to explain the requirements to conduct an analytical study, and disseminate information to senior management.
- Project management experience with skills that include complex multifaceted projects.

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: Non-Sensitive/Moderate Risk

A background security investigation will be required for all appointees. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet the requirements may be grounds for appropriate personnel action. In addition, if hired, a background security investigation or supplemental investigation may be required later.

Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualification is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

Vaccination Requirements

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees. Therefore, to the extent a Federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of

the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

All qualified candidates should submit their [resume](#) with cover letter and unofficial transcripts (if you have foreign transcripts, please submit a course-by-course foreign evaluation from an accredited company ([NACES](#) or [AICE](#))) by **June 8, 2022** to OPQOQSRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov . Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring officials within CDER with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with “do not share”. **Please reference job ID: OQS – Data Scientist**

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact Dominique.Mitchell@fda.hhs.gov.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

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