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# How to start a career in business analytics

The astonishing explosion of data now available to businesses has driven the field of business analytics to new heights. A recent study shows that 59 percent of companies worldwide use big data analytics, making it a great time to work toward a career in business analytics. Alas, technological growth has surpassed the supply of qualified individuals. A McKinsey study predicts that the number of data science jobs in the United States alone will exceed 490,000, but there will be fewer than 200,000 available data scientists to fill these positions. Globally, the amount of data scientist roles is projected to increase by 26 percent through 2026. It falls to business analytics professionals, and more specifically, the highest-regarded role of data scientists, to aggregate data and then determine how their company can leverage that data to not only operate more efficiently, but also more effectively. The data scientist has been rated number two in Glassdoor's Best Jobs in America. To keep up with rising demand and bridge the talent gap, universities and colleges have come up with pioneering master's degrees in the field of business analytics, which are perfect for recent graduates with quantitative backgrounds like science, math, business, or engineering. A student's chances of landing a job as a business analyst have been shown to increase significantly if they acquire a master's degree. There are many ways to start a career in business analytics. To gain a competitive edge and increase your chances of success, you must learn Business Analytics. Business analysts typically start with robust IT and business skills, but a deep understanding of a specific industry or vertical market is an added advantage. There is increasing demand for effective and faster accessibility of data across industries like healthcare, finance, retail, manufacturing, banking, and biotechnology. The following are a few starting points for launching a business analyst career and how to learn business analytics: Straight From College After earning a bachelor's degree in business, accounting, information systems, or related fields, the next step to securing a business analyst job is to enroll in a business analysis certificate course. This will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge that will immediately transition you to a business analyst career. From a Software Developer to a Business Analyst If you are an experienced software developer and you have come to a point where you need a fresh challenge, you might consider transitioning to a career as a business analyst. Software developers have data mining and analytical skills, which make them ideal candidates for becoming business analysts. Also, their deep understanding of the software development lifecycle is an added advantage. By merely adding a business analysis certification to this skillset, a software developer can go a long way. Industry Professionals It is not uncommon for people to change careers multiple times. When you feel ready to take advantage of specialized industry skills that you have acquired and move your career to a new level, you may want to consider enrolling in a business analyst certificate course to give you well-rounded and up-to-date skills that will make you stand out from fellow job-seeking individuals. Business Analyst Certifications A business analyst certification validates your newly-acquired skills and gives you an immediate competitive advantage. By passing the IIBA certification exam (International Institute of Business Analysis), you can become either a CCBA (Certification Competency Business Analyst) or a CBAP (Certified Business Analysis Professional). Training and certification give you added confidence as you take on new challenges in the field of business analysis. The CCBA® and CBAP® tend to be also highly regarded by employers and can raise your visibility and qualifications during the interview process. If you are currently employed in a different field and would like to be a solid candidate for one of the many business analyst jobs out there, consider getting involved in business analytics-related projects at your company. Examples include helping out with testing, designing or writing procedure manuals, and contributing other ideas in workshops or other discussions. This way, you get a chance to work closely with business analysts and begin to understand the nature of their work and how it is done. It also gives you real-world examples that you can relate to when applying for a position in business analysis. Of course, not everyone is cut out to be a business analyst. Remember to take a moment to see if you have what it takes. If you happen to be good at analytical thinking, have a knack for solving puzzles, are excellent at matching organizational problems to solutions, and are not afraid to take technology head-on, you possess many of the skills to become an accomplished business analyst. You can start exploring the available options for business analytics programs, which are increasingly intertwined with the booming field of Data Science. If you are just starting out, check out our Business Analytics certification course. Either way, you could be on your way to joining this lucrative and exciting career. Something went wrong. Wait a moment and try again. The role of a business analyst is gaining paramount importance in current times. They are one of the most highly paid professionals today. However, to become a business analyst, there are a few skills you would require. In this article on how to become a business analyst, we'll take you through a business analyst's role and how you can successfully become one. Who Is a Business Analyst? In today's data-driven environment, organizations use data to unearth business patterns and to derive meaningful insights. With the available data, companies try to improve processes and make critical decisions. A business analyst enables change in an organization by understanding and analyzing business problems and delivering solutions that will maximize its value to its stakeholders. Business analysts bridge the gap between IT and business teams using analytics to evaluate processes, determine requirements, deliver data-driven solutions, and generate reports to executives and stakeholders. They work closely with the technology team to enhance the quality of the services being delivered. They also help in assisting in the integration and testing of new solutions. Now that you know who a business analyst is, let us walk you through a business analyst's responsibilities. Responsibilities of a Business Analyst The job of a business analyst comes with several roles and responsibilities. Hence, before you understand how to become a business analyst, it is of utmost importance to clearly understand the duties carried out by a business analyst. Given below are some of the primary responsibilities of a business analyst: A business analyst identifies an organization's business objectives and problems and comes up with lucrative solutions. They comprehend and collect business requirements from clients and stakeholders. Business analysts interact with the development team in order to design a solution for solving a particular problem. They proactively provide feedback on a software application's layout and implement the newly designed features that a business needs. Business Analysts gauge the functional and non-functional requirements in a business. They conduct regular meetings with stakeholders and clients to discuss business issues and solutions. Business analysts are responsible for validating the status of a project with the help of user acceptance testing. They ensure if the business solutions are in line with the clients' requirements. A business analyst documents and builds data visualizations to convey all the project findings. Now that you know the roles and responsibilities of a business analyst, let us take you to the next section of this article on how to become a business analyst. Skills and Steps on How to Become a Business Analyst To successfully carry out the duties mentioned, you must have a rich technical and non-technical skill set. Listed below are the top skills you require to become a business analyst. 1. Degree and Domain Knowledge You should hold a degree in the relevant field. It is also useful if you carry sound domain knowledge along with relevant experience. 2. Analytical Skills Business analysts must possess analytical skills, along with logical and critical thinking. This helps in interpreting business needs and choosing the best solution for a challenging business problem. 3. Microsoft Excel Excel helps create several graphs and helps generate dynamic reports related to a business problem. 4. Negotiation Skills A business analyst must have excellent negotiation skills. As a business analyst, you must achieve a profitable result for your company while keeping the client happy. 5. SQL Knowledge of SQL and relational databases is required for a business analyst. This helps in accessing, retrieving, manipulating, and analyzing data. Working knowledge of Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL database, Oracle DB, and SQLite is crucial. 6. Programming Knowledge of programming languages, such as R and Python, is a prerequisite. Programming knowledge helps in solving complex problems and performing faster data analysis. 7. Data Visualization Business analysts must know to work on various data visualization tools like Tableau, QlikView, and PowerBI. This will help them create reports and dashboards, forecast data, and make vital business decisions. 8. Communication Skills A business analyst should have good presentation and communication skills to interact with clients and stakeholders. To carry out documentation, they must also have superb writing skills. Those were the skills required to become a business analyst. Now, let us walk you through a roadmap that depicts what steps a fresher needs to take to become a business analyst. First, have a graduation degree in a related field. Second, learn SQL and other relational databases. Third, have good hands-on experience with programming languages. Finally, be good at both written and verbal communication and practice to become good at presentations. Moving on, we can take note of the roadmap mentioned below by experienced professionals to become a business analyst. As mentioned earlier, a graduation degree is mandatory. Knowledge and experience in writing SQL queries. Expert knowledge of programming languages. They need to have good communication and negotiation skills. Good at creating interactive reports using various business intelligence tools. Having a certification offered by the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) such as Certified Business Analysis Professional (CBAP) would be highly beneficial. Now, let us go to the salary structure of a business analyst across different countries. Salary Structure of a Business Analyst According to Glassdoor, a business analyst in the United States earns an average annual salary of 68 thousand and 346 dollars. Fig: Business Analyst Salary in the U.S. Meanwhile, in India, a business analyst earns an average annual salary of 7 lac rupees. Fig: Business Analyst Salary in India A business analyst in the United Kingdom earns an average annual salary of £40,000. Fig: Business Analyst Salary in the U.K. In Australia, business analysts earn an average annual salary of 90 thousand Australian dollars. Fig: Business Analyst Salary in Australia Now that you understand the salary range of a business analyst across various countries, let us look at the companies hiring business analysts worldwide. The popular companies hiring for a business analyst position are CISCO, Capital One, American Express, WhatsApp, Google, Ernst & Young Global Limited, Amazon, and Dell, to name a few. Gain expertise in the latest Business analytics tools and techniques with the Business Analyst Master's Program. Enroll now! Are You Ready to Become a Business Analyst? Now that you know who a business analyst is, the roles and responsibilities of a business analyst, the steps on how to become a business analyst, you're all set to start your business analytics career. For all business aspirants out there, the "Business Analyst" Master's Program provided by Simplilearn is a brilliant choice. This certification will help you become a business analyst. To know more about this master's program, click on this link: Business Analyst Simplilearn. Do you have any questions for us concerning 'How to Become a Business Analyst'? Mention them in the comment section below; our experts will get back to you as soon as possible!

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