

First Year Research Award: Data Science

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Sachith Dassanayaka

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Data Science

Criteria: The Wittenberg University Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2022-2023 to an incoming student to work with Dr. Sachith Dassanayaka. The recipient will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in Data Science.

Expectations: FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research-related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

Research Activity: The First Year Research Award recipient will be working with Dr. Sachith Dassanayaka, Assistant Professor of Data Science, in his research on well-being as agreed upon in the FYRA Learning Contract. The FYRA Scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of Dr. Sachith's research, including analyzing disinformation campaigns on social media using machine learning, fake review analysis on online shopping platforms using NLP, data visualization, machine intelligence, and computer networks and security. Recently, Dr. Sachith has been working on building a predictive model in order to identify fake reviews on online shopping platforms such as Amazon and eBay, compare troll networks on social media streams, and implement a social media campaign detection system. Further, He welcomes any research ideas that students like to continue regardless of the subject area. The FYRA recipient will be mentored in these research practices and will have an opportunity to present their work publicly at an undergraduate conference or colloquium at Wittenberg University or a regional conference. Depending on the recipient's interest and level of involvement, there may also be the potential for co-authorship of manuscripts to be submitted for publication in an academic journal or presentations at professional conferences. Recipients should have good critical thinking, writing skills, and an interest in topics related to data science/computer science. For more information about Dr. Sachith's current research activities in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, please visit [Sachith Dassanayaka](#).