

# R. Paul Sabin

## Sports Analytics & Data Science Leader

Simsbury, CT

## Contact information

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## Links

[Personal](https://sabinanalytics.com)(sabinanalytics.com)

[LinkedIn](https://linkedin.com/in/rpaulsabin)(linkedin.com/in/rpaulsabin)

[GitHub](https://github.com/sabinanalytics)(github.com/sabinanalytics)

## Languages

English



French



## Skills

Sports Analytics  
Data Science Leadership  
Business Strategy  
People Management  
Model Development & Implementation  
Project Management

## Professional summary

Sports Analytics & Data Science Leader with 10+ years of experience including managing data science & sports analytics teams that drive key organizational decisions. Built and grew a data science team from scratch at SumerSports, working on football analytics problems in the NFL. Led the development and implementation of ESPN's proprietary player & team metrics, including BPI, Strength of Record (SOR), and the Allstate Playoff Predictor, generating multimillions of dollars in revenue. Adjunct Professor and sports analytics consultant. Strong leader, empathetic, and data-driven analytical thinker.

## Employment history

### Senior Fellow & Lecturer, Wharton (UPenn) 2023 - Now *Wharton Sports Analytics and Business Initiative*

- Lead initiatives in pushing Sports Analytics forward via student and faculty projects in sports analytics.
- Advised on Sports Analytics projects across multiple sports.

### VP of Football Analytics, SumerSports 2022 - 2023

- Led a team of 8-10 Data Scientists working on the B2B NFL product
- Participated in management meetings and high-level company decision making
- Developed and implemented innovative data-driven strategies to improve football performance and player development
- Identified and analyzed key performance indicators (KPIs) for NFL teams and provide recommendations for improvement based on data-driven insights
- Conducted regular training sessions to educate team members on new data analytics techniques and tools
- Collaborated with the CEO and senior management team to develop a long-term vision and strategy for the B2B department at SumerSports, aligning with the company's overall goals and objectives.

### Adjunct Professor in Statistics, Virginia Tech 2021 - Now

- Teach an undergraduate and graduate level class on sports analytics and research methodology.
- Develop and teach innovative statistics courses that integrate real-world data and applications in sports.

### Sports Analytics & Data Science Consultant 2021 - Now

- Develop and implement data-driven strategies to optimize team performance and improve decision-making in the sports industry.
- Consulted on and built a data infrastructure and decision making pipeline for a Division I college football team and athletic department.
- Provided consulting services and strategic planning for basketball tracking data for a 3rd party company.

### Sports Data Scientist, ESPN 2015-2022

- Utilized machine learning algorithms to predict player and team performance across multiple sports (NFL, NBA, CBB, CFB, Soccer) as well as contextualizing past results.
- Multiple promotions to most senior role on team.
- Wrote dozens of articles on sports analytics topics for espn.com.

- Conducted regular training sessions for on-air talent to enhance their understanding of analytics topics and effectively communicate them to viewers.
- Developed models and optimizer to predict TV viewership combining expertise in TV viewing analytics and sports analytics.
- Implemented a quantitative approach to hiring that improved talent on the team and reduced hiring bias.
- Developed new methodology that created first of its kind objective value metric for every player in both college football and the NFL
- Collaborated with the engineering team to develop and implement data visualization tools for broadcasters and analysts.
- Conducted regular analysis of sports betting data to identify trends and opportunities for ESPN to provide actionable insights and recommendations for sports betting enthusiasts.

**Graduate Researcher, Virginia Tech** **2015**

- Worked on big data problems as part of the Social & Decision Analytics Laboratory and collaborated with government and private institutions
- Developed and implemented new computational methods and algorithms to analyze large datasets in an efficient and accurate manner
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions for complex data analysis problems

**Graduate Fellow, Central Intelligence Agency** **2013**

- Worked on various projects using statistical models, clustering, and data mining in an effort to better inform policy makers.

## Education

### Ph.D., Statistics

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Dissertation: Multiscale Dirichlet Processes in Supply Chain Order Simulation

### Master of Science, Statistics

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Project: Analysis of the NCAA Men's Final Four TV Audience

### Bachelor of Science, Statistics & French

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

French: ACTFL "Advanced High" oral proficiency rating

Statistics: Mu Sigma Rho Honors Society