Senior Data Engineer - Job Description
Ascent Funding, LLC.

Are you a curious and critical thinker looking to make a meaningful impact? Is "data" your favorite four-letter word? Does the idea of re-designing data architecture to drive the next generation of products excite you?

[Ascent Funding](#) is an award-winning, rapidly growing private FinTech company that is on a mission to revolutionize the way people pay for college. We're looking for a Senior Data Engineer to join our team in the heart of downtown San Diego, CA (well, virtually during COVID) to drive modern data infrastructure and create actionable, data-driven insights for scalable business growth.

Would we be a good fit for you? A few tenets that we hold dear:

- **Career:** We value all our team members and go the extra mile to make sure you receive a career experience that fits your goals.
- **Collaboration.** Our team members and customers bring a variety of backgrounds, experience, and perspectives to our company and culture. We strive to build strong, long-lasting relationships, internally and externally, to partner and grow together.
- **Curiosity:** We don't always know the right answers or the questions to ask right away, and they change over time. We value curiosity and diligence in driving toward good decisions and testing via experimentation to find proof points and solve problems.

Objective: Meaningful insights require a solid infrastructure that can scale with large amounts of data. The Ascent **Senior Data Engineer** is responsible for expanding and optimizing our data and data pipeline architecture, as well as optimizing data flow and collection for cross functional teams. This high visibility role supports the critical data needs of multiple teams, systems and products.

You must:

- Find data thrilling and have the drive to be self-directed, flexible, and responsive – things can change quickly, including systems and methodologies.
- Enjoy leveraging data to tell a story that helps direct team efforts for maximum impact.
- Be comfortable working in a fast-paced, analytics-driven environment. We like numbers. You like finding patterns in the data and providing actionable insights.

In this role you would:

- Create and maintain optimal data pipeline architecture.
- Assemble large, complex data sets that meet functional / non-functional business requirements.

- Identify, design, and implement internal process improvements: automating manual processes optimizing data delivery, re-designing infrastructure for greater scalability, etc.
- Build the infrastructure required for optimal extraction, transformation, and loading of data from a wide variety of data sources using SQL, Python and AWS 'big data' technologies.
- Build analytics tools that utilize the data pipeline to provide actionable insights into customer acquisition, operational efficiency and other key business performance metrics.
- Work with stakeholders including Executive, Product, Data and Marketing teams to assist with data-related technical issues and support their data infrastructure needs.
- Create data tools for analytics and data scientist team members that assist them in building and optimizing our product into an innovative industry leader.
- Work with data and analytics experts to strive for greater functionality in our data systems.
- Be proactive to identify systems and processes the improve efficiencies and support greater access to meaningful data that empowers key stakeholders throughout the organization.
- Continual self-education to improve techniques and advance our analytics strategy.
- Find ways to ensure clean data and reduce risk of fraud.

Desired Skills & Expertise:

- **You could be a fit if you have:**
    - Bachelor's Degree required in Computer Science, Engineering, Statistics, Applied Mathematics, Informatics, Information Systems or another quantitative field.
    - 5+ years of experience in a data engineering role.
    - Enjoy working in cross-functional teams and reporting up to senior management.
    - Passion for mastering new data and analysis related technologies and techniques.
    - Exceptional analytic and strategic thinking skills related to working with structured and unstructured data sets.
    - Experience and proficiency with…
        - Advanced SQL knowledge and SQL query authoring.
        - Building and optimizing data pipelines, architectures, and data sets.
        - Performing root cause analysis on internal/external data, identifying improvement opportunities.
        - Relational databases (MS SQL Server, Postgres, MySQL) and NoSQL databases.
        - AWS cloud services (EC2, EMR, RDS, Redshift) and AWS Data Pipeline.
        - Big data pipeline tools like Spark, Kafka, etc.
        - Sourcing and modeling data from application REST-like APIs.
        - Data visualization systems like Looker, Tableau, or PowerBuilder BI.
        - Object-oriented scripting languages (Python, Java, JavaScript, Node.JS, Scala).
    - Must be able to think outside of the box, enjoy being challenged to grow your skills, and not be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone.

- **Bonus points if you have:**
    - Past consumer finance experience and / or experience in a highly regulated environment.

- MBA or Master's degree in Computer Science, Engineering, Statistics, Applied Mathematics, Informatics, Information Systems or another quantitative field.

Company Overview:

Ascent Funding is a private student loan program built around one guiding principle: Student loans should expand possibilities, not limit them. That's why Ascent created a new private student loan program that gives students more opportunities to qualify for a loan, with or without a cosigner. Ascent provides access to higher education funding for an expanded population of students, while preserving the notion that an education is an investment where students and families should understand the return on their investment relative to the cost. Ascent encourages transparency and financial wellness by incorporating financial education into the application process, preserving the notion that an education is an investment where students and families should understand the return on their investment relative to the cost. Ascent offers benefits (such as 1% cash back, scholarships, a Refer a Friend Program, a Rewards Program, and more) as well as free resources that set students and families up for financial success.

Benefits & Perks:

Ascent is proud to be part of the Goal Investment Group (GIG) family. GIG, named "Best Places to Work" by the San Diego Business Journal for since 2015 and awarded a "Top Workplaces" honor by The San Diego Union-Tribune (2016 & 2017), is a values driven, employee owned education finance technology company providing a comprehensive array of products and services that include Ascent student loans, trust administration, portfolio management, and capital markets advisory services. Some of our employee benefits that make us award-winning include:

- **Unlimited paid vacation** with an incentivized bonus to encourage work-life balance (subject to manager approval).
- **Annual bonus** potential.
- **Matching 401K**.
- **Insurance Benefits** - You, and your eligible dependents, shall be eligible to participate in the employee benefit plans including, medical, dental, vision, life, AD&D insurance, long-term and short-term disability coverage, flexible and dependent spending plan, and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- **Parking reimbursement.**
- **Free on-site gym membership** plus private group fitness classes four times per month.
- A **fully-stocked kitchen** of healthy and organic food.
- Compensation for **continuing education classes**.
- A **Wellness Program** that hosts wellness seminars throughout the year plus a meditation room and stand-up desks.

Ready to Apply?

Please visit https://goalstructuredsolutionsinc.applytojob.com/apply/p3UxigscPs/Senior-Data-Engineer to apply.

The Job Description is intended to be a general representation of the responsibilities and requirements of the job. However, the description may not be all-inclusive, and responsibilities and requirements are subject to change.

Equal Employment Opportunity

It is the policy of Goal Investment Group and Ascent Funding to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and employment applicants without regard to unlawful considerations of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, sensory, physical, or mental disability, marital status, veteran or military status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by applicable local, state, or federal laws. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, job assignment, compensation, promotion, benefits, training, discipline, and termination. Reasonable accommodation is available for qualified individuals with disabilities, upon request.