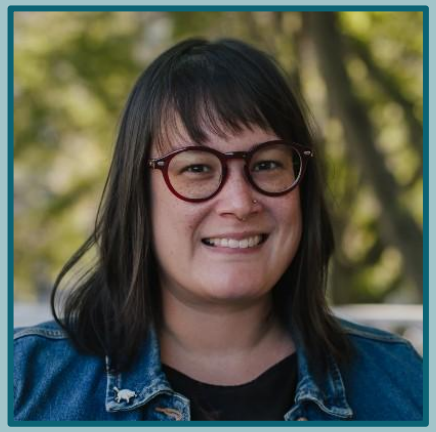
MS Data Science Pre-Decision Information Session

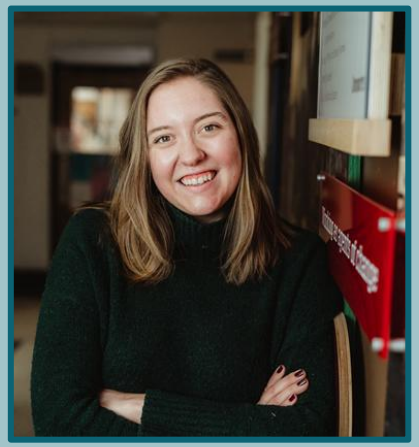
Jinda Moore, MS Data Science Program Coordinator

Anna-Marie Heins, Recruitment Coordinator

Introductions



Jinda Moore
MS Data Science
Program Coordinator
msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu



Anna-Marie Heins
Recruitment Coordinator

Overview

- Requirements
- Sample enrollment plans
- Facts about MS Data Science
- Policies
- Funding options
- Cost of living in Madison & housing resources
- Career information & resources
- Next steps

Requirements

MS Data Science Program

- Statistics Core courses: 9 credits
  - STAT 611 Statistical Models for Data Science
  - STAT 612 Statistical Inference for Data Science
  - STAT 613 Statistical Methods for Data Science
- Computer Sciences Core courses: 9 credits
  - Algorithms
  - Systems
  - Humans and Data
- Machine Learning Core courses: 6 credits
- Data Science Elective courses: 6 credits

UW-Madison Graduate School

- 30 credits
- 16 minimum credits in residence as a graduate student
- Continuous enrollment (fall/spring terms)
- Minimum enrollment requirements for international students: 8 credits in fall/spring, minimum 5 cr of in-person courses
- Minimum of 2 credits of enrollment in final semester (including summer)

MS Data Science Graduate Guide: https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/statistics/data-science-ms/#text
UW-Madison Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures: https://grad.wisc.edu/academic-policies/

Sample Enrollment Plans

2 Year/4 Semester Plan:

First Semester
- STAT 611 (3 cr)
- STAT 613 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3 cr)

Second Semester
- STAT 612 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)

Third Semester
- Computer Sciences Core (3 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)
- Data Science Electives (3 cr)

Fourth Semester
- Any remaining electives (3 cr)

1.5 Year/3 Semester Plan:

First Semester
- STAT 611 (3 cr)
- STAT 613 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3 cr)

Second Semester
- STAT 612 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (6 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)

Third Semester
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)
- Data Science Electives (6 cr)

F-1/J-1 visa holding students must enroll in a minimum of 8 credits in all semesters, except the final semester with an approved Reduced Course Load

Facts about MS Data Science

MS Data Science is a coursework-based professional Master's program with a set curriculum

MS Data Science is **not** a research or thesis-based Master's program, and is **not** a guaranteed path to UW-Madison PhD programs

Students **must** follow the program curriculum

Students may **not** enroll in any coursework outside of curriculum and/or not counting toward degree requirements without prior approval

MS Data Science is a joint program between the Statistics Department and the Computer Sciences Department

MS Data Science is **not** a substitution for a Computer Sciences-only program

Policies

Program Policies

- Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress while in the program
  - Must maintain 3.000 cumulative GPA
  - Must only be enrolled in MS Data Science specific coursework
    - no courses outside of requirements
  - Must have an approved course plan survey each semester
  - Must graduate in the semester in which all program/degree requirements are completed
  - Must uphold personal conduct expectations

Campus Policies

- Concurrent enrollment in additional programs (MS/PhD) is **not** permitted
- Enrollment in courses outside of the MS Data Science curriculum is **not** permitted
- Students can accept teaching/project/research assistantship (TA/RA/PA) positions but **will not** be granted tuition remission
  - Can accept stipend or hourly rate as compensation

**F1/J1 visa-holding students* have additional policies for enrollment minimums, time-to-degree, internships, etc.*

Funding

- Scholarships - all departmental scholarships allocated at the time of admission
- Graduate assistantships - professional program students **can** hold graduate assistantship positions such as teaching, project, and research assistantships
  - **Can** receive stipend or an hourly pay rate
  - **Cannot** receive tuition remission
- Hourly employment (https://studentjobs.wisc.edu/)
  - Visa holding international students must be on-campus or have CPT authorization for employment

Cost of Living in Madison, WI

Category	Cost for one person	Rank (within U.S.)
Total with rent	$2,320	1019/2202
Without rent	$887	653/2202
Rent and utilities	$1,433	1121/2202
Food	$619	1075/2202
Transport	$92.40	82/2202
Monthly salary after tax	$4,354	1063/2202
Quality of life	81st percentile	134/2202
Population	270K	84/2202

As of March 2, 2025

https://livingcost.org/cost/united-states/wi/madison

Housing

- UW-Madison has some apartments available for graduate students and families: https://www.housing.wisc.edu/apartments/
- Off-Campus Housing Marketplace: https://campusareahousing.wisc.edu/
- Large Property Management Companies:
  - Mullins Apartments
  - Madison Property Management (MPM)
  - Steve Brown
- Search Resources:
  - Madison and Campus Downtown Living
  - Rentable
  - Craigslist
- Tenant Resource Center: https://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/

Career Information

- MS Data Science is a fairly new program, so data does not yet exist for alumni career trajectories
- Alumni may enter the job market or continue their education
- Anticipated careers in a wide variety of companies depending on student interests, such as technology, finance, healthcare, sports, and government, among others
    - Supplement data science skills with internships, as well as with deeper experience in one or more specialized domain areas
- Anticipated continuing education: PhD programs related to Computer Sciences, Statistics/Biostatistics, Business Analytics, Industrial and Systems Engineering, etc.

Career Resources

- Students opt in & select what resources/opportunities they wish to engage with
- Events and engagement opportunities
  - **Statistics & Computer Sciences Departments**: staff advisors, career development coordinator, faculty, student orgs, department sponsored events, employers who visit the department, CPT internship course
  - **CDIS**: the School for Computer, Data, and Information Sciences has a number of events each year to help connect employers and students
    - Example: CDIS Career Fair (https://cdis.wisc.edu/career/)
  - **Graduate School**: several professional development programs to pursue (https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/), events, workshops, trainings
  - **Broader campus events**: career fairs, materials/interview prep, presentations by potential employers, specific career events/information for F1/J1 visa students etc.
- Events and opportunities sent via email

Next Steps

Acceptance decisions due **April 15**

- Finalize admission with the Graduate School
  - Have official transcripts sent as soon as possible, along with other documentation as applicable
  - UW-Madison Graduate School makes final admission decision and offer
- Complete the Decision Reply Form in your UW application portal
- If you need an extension, email msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu

After your decision is received, you will receive additional information via email to help with requesting your student visa (if applicable), onboarding, fall course enrollment, orientation, etc.

Additional Resources

- MS Data Science email address: msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu
- MS Data Science Program Page: https://stat.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/ms-datascience/
- MS Data Science Graduate Guide Page: https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/statistics/data-science-ms/
- Becoming a Global Badger (for students requiring a visa): https://iss.wisc.edu/becoming-a-global-badger/
- Student jobs site: https://studentjobs.wisc.edu/
  - For visa-holding international students must be on-campus or have CPT authorization

Questions?