From: Dana Maltby
To: dsundergrad@g-groups.wisc.edu
Subject: READ ME! Fall 2025 Data Science Enrollment Information Newsletter!
Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:31:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Here is a special edition of the weekly DS newsletter all about Fall 2025 enrollment!

Please carefully read this entire email as it contains important information. As always, if you have issues preventing you from enrolling at your enrollment time (either technical or personal), please contact the Data Science advisors as soon as possible. Include your 10-digit campus ID number and a screenshot of your enrollment error(s).

The DS Advising Team (Anna-Marie, Carmela, Dana, & Sara)

In this Newsletter:

Questions about Summer 2025 enrollment? View our Summer 2025 Enrollment Information Newsletter here.

Important Dates & Deadlines

View semester Dates & Deadlines here.

- March 31 – enrollment appointment times assigned to students **throughout this week**
  - Check your MyUW Student Center and WiscMail inbox
- April 7th - Students begin enrolling for Fall 2025 term courses **according to assigned appointment times**

Advising

- Visit the Data Science Major website for information on:
  - Scheduling individual advising appointments with an advisor (best for complex questions or unique situations)
  - Attending virtual drop-in advising (best for minimal questions about enrollment)
- Quick questions? Be sure to **include your 10-digit campus ID**
  - Send DS advisors an email!
  - Attend Zoom drop-ins Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm
- Note: individual advising appointments can fill up quickly – it's normal for our schedules to book 1-2 weeks in advance. **Plan ahead!**

Enrollment Holds

- View and clear your holds in the MyUW Student Center: holds may impact your ability to enroll in fall classes
  - Check occasionally between now and your enrollment appointment time!
- See step-by-step instructions for Viewing Your Holds in Student Center

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Enrollment Advice

- Plan **back up classes**
  - It is likely your first choice of classes may be filled by your enrollment time. Plan ahead!
- Check for your **enrollment appointment time** in your MyUW Student Center (and WiscMail inbox).
- Enroll as close to your appointment time as possible, and select the "add me to waitlist if course is full option."
  - **Waiting to enroll may prevent you from getting a seat in your preferred classes.**
- Monitor Search & Enroll for **added seats and/or sections.**

    - Spots may open in different sections than the one you are wait listed in, and you can enroll into open seats.
- **Re-validate** your course selection before hitting 'enroll.'
    - This will help remove previous validation errors.
- **Read your validation errors FULLY,** they give important information as to why you may be prevented from enrolling.
    - Be sure that you are enrolling in the **correct section.**
- **Do NOT** enroll in courses that have **time conflicts.**
    - If you cannot be in two places at once, you shouldn't enroll in two courses taught at the same time.
- Consult the following **enrollment FAQ pages**:
    - Statistics courses FAQ
    - Computer Sciences courses FAQ
- Email DS advisors with your 10-digit campus ID and screenshots if you experience issues.

Priority Enrollment/Enrollment Restrictions

- Some advanced STAT and COMP SCI courses will give priority enrollment for **declared DS students** (along with Stat, iSci, & CS majors).
    - Several courses include: STAT 340, COMP SCI 320, COMP SCI/E C E 524, COMP SCI 544, L I S 461, and other upper-level elective courses.
- Check out "class notes" on Course Search and Enroll to find out if individual courses have priority enrollment access.
    - Example: L I S 464:

      Class notes

      LAB: The Declared in Information Science requisite will be removed at noon on April 22, 2025.
- Check each section: often, certain sections are reserved for specific student groups.
    - **Example:** most STAT elective courses reserve **LEC 001 for undergraduate students** and LEC 002 for graduate students.
    - **Example: L I S 461**
        - **LEC 001**: 4 credits, Communication B & Humanities breadth, open to DS majors.
            - Pick your preferred discussion section.
        - **LEC 002:** 3 credits, Humanities breadth, open to DS majors.
        - **LEC 003:** reserved for students in the MS Information program.
            - **Undergraduates are not allowed** to enroll in this section - no exceptions.
        - **LEC 004:** 3 credits, Humanities breadth, open to DS majors.
- Priority enrollment ***does not guarantee*** access to major courses but will allow declared DS students access to enroll before non-declared students.

L I S Priority Enrollment for iSci students:

- Several popular L I S courses that count as Data Science electives (L I S 407, 440, 464 for example) **restrict enrollment to iSci majors** until Aprill 22nd. No exceptions.
- Your two options are:
  - (1) wait list the class (if available) or
  - (2) wait after the declared iSci requisite is lifted & try to enroll then
- **DO NOT email the iSci department** asking for this policy to be waived
  - L I S courses are only a small number of courses available to DS majors – you do not need these courses to graduate. You can select other options to satisfy requirements.

New Data Science Major Courses

New classes that are not currently listed in the Data Science Guide and are offered Fall 2025 are:

- **Statistical modeling**
  - GEOG 560 Advanced Quantitative Methods
- **Other DS elective**
  - ACT SCI 655 Health Analytics
  - STAT 479 LEC 001 Sports Analytics
    - Description: Illustrates the use of statistical models and data science techniques to derive actionable insights from sports data. Emphasizes not only technical calculation of advanced metrics but also on written and oral communication of results to diverse audiences. Topics may include: estimating team rankings from paired competitions; measuring an individual player's contribution to their team's success; assessing player performance and team strategy in terms of expected outcomes; forecasting the impact of rule changes using simulation.
    - Additional course details:
      - In addition to the usual data wrangling, model building, and visualization, the course will involve a ***lot*** more writing than other Statistics courses. The learning outcomes include building a portfolio of written reports summarizing different analyses (which they could share with potential employers…), communicating effectively with technical and non-technical audiences, and providing feedback to and receiving feedback from their peers
      - Most of the worked examples will use data from American football, basketball, baseball, and hockey. These are the sports with the most (and highest quality) publicly available data. That said, I will try to create opportunities for students to look at data from other sports.
      - No presumed background knowledge of or interest in any specific sport(s).

We expect that students be willing to learn about and engage with data from sports that they don't necessarily like.
        - Topics related to (daily) fantasy sports or sports betting are **NOT** covered.
    - STAT 479 LEC 003 Topological Data Analysis
        - Description: This course will introduce topological data analysis (TDA), which is a set of computational topology tools that may be used in the analysis of data for tasks such as visualization, inference, or prediction. The primary focus is on *persistent homology*, which can be thought of as characterizing *holes* in data. What are holes in data? We will discuss this more rigorously, but you can think of zero-dimensional holes as connected components or clusters, one-dimensional holes as loops, two-dimensional holes as voids, etc. It may be surprising that where the data are *not* located (i.e., the holes), can provide useful information and insights for inference or prediction, but it has been successfully used in a variety of applications including astronomy, brain artery trees, cell biology, engineering, histology images, morphology, among many others. Various theoretical, methodological, computational, and applied aspects of persistent homology will be discussed during the semester, and we will use topological summaries.

Notes about new electives:

- These courses **will not appear in the Guide until Fall 2025***.
    - *STAT 479 topics courses will not appear in Guide at all. Students who take Sports Analytics or Topological Data Analysis will have a DARS exception added to their record after the course drop deadline (Sept. 12th).
- Some courses (or individual sections) are **restricted to specific student populations** – always plan a backup if you are unable to enroll in a course.
- **Check course prerequisites** to determine if you are eligible to enroll - **some sections have different requisites – read carefully.**

The Data Science Guide Requirements page has information including enrollment requirements & course descriptions. Check it out!

Removed DS Major Courses:

Due to content changes from their home departments, the following courses that were **previously approved** have been **removed** from the DS major curriculum. They are:

- MICROBIO 657
- GEN BUS 656: effective Fall 2025
    - This will NOT impact any students who have previously taken the course or are enrolled in the Spring 2025 semester. The class will still count for these students.
    - After significant changes to the course, our faculty and staff on the Data Science

Programs Committee have determined that the course is not sufficient as a machine learning elective.

Class Attendance Policy

View the L&S Class Attendance Policy.

- We expect students to be present at all classes.
- Make sure you do not enroll in courses that meet at the same time.

F-1/J-1 Visa Students (Enrollment & RCL)

- ISS Fall/spring enrollment requirements: visa-holding students **must** enroll in a minimum of 12 credits in the fall term.
  - Online enrollment restrictions apply, see link above for details.
- **December 2025 Graduating students:**
  - Reduced Course Load Form Information
    - Graduating this semester? You may enroll in less than 12 credits while maintaining your visa status!
    - Complete the RCL – Stats/DS Internal Form to qualify.
      - Fill this out **after enrolling in fall courses & applying for fall graduation**; failure to submit the form may impact refunds on courses you drop.
  - Complete the program completion checklist.
  - Provide friends & family with an invitation letter if they are applying for a tourist visa to visit you.

Statistics Department International Students FAQ.

Planning to Graduate in Fall 2025?

If you are planning to graduate in December, you MUST apply for graduation after enrolling into your courses. Follow these Apply for Graduation steps.
For additional information, please visit:

- Registrar's Office Apply for Graduation webpage!
- Department of Statistics Alumni Webpage!
