



MS Data Science

Program Handbook

2025-2026

Department of Statistics
Department of Computer Sciences

Reference this handbook to learn about the unique policies, requirements, procedures, resources, and norms for graduate students in the MS Data Science program.

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Preface

The [Department of Statistics](#) and the [Department of Computer Sciences](#) are committed to the training and education of its graduate students. To facilitate this practice, we have created this document to help guide students through their education in the MS Data Science program. The MS Data Science program is a joint professional program between the Department of Statistics and the Department of Computer Sciences. It is administered by the Department of Statistics. Because this is a professional program, there are additional policies in areas such as funding and enrollment. The policies of the program are overseen by the MS Data Science Committee.

The [Graduate School at UW-Madison](#) oversees all graduate programs and provides [policies that apply to all graduate students](#). Additionally, departments must create and oversee the specific curriculum and provide additional policies for students in their program. This document is designed to provide information and links to relevant Graduate School policies and outlines departmental and program-specific rules and policies.

Degrees and course requirements may change over time. However, students must meet the degree and course requirements in effect when they enter the program. Additionally, administrative procedures and processes can change over time. Students are required to follow the administrative procedures and processes listed in the current handbook. The information in this handbook is supplemental to the [MS Data Science Graduate Guide](#), which serves as the official repository of program rules, requirements, and policies.

Students who have questions or concerns should contact the MS Data Science program coordinator, Jinda Moore (msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu), and the MS Data Science program chair, Yazhen Wang (yzwang@stat.wisc.edu).

Navigating Policy and Resources at UW-Madison

This handbook is one of many sources to consult as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms of graduate education at UW-Madison:



[MS Data Science Program Handbook](#) (for your admitting year)

[Graduate Guide](#)

[Graduate School AP&P](#)

[UW-Madison Policy Library](#)

[Graduate Student Life](#)

[Graduate School at UW-Madison](#)

Who to Contact for Questions

Many of your questions about how to meet expectations and thrive as a graduate student will be answered by the various sources of policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms at the resources provided above as well as in this Handbook.

Several key positions in this department and on campus are ready to answer your remaining questions:

Graduate Program Coordinator

Each graduate program will have at least one department staff person, typically called a Graduate Program Coordinator, who serves as a point person for program policy and procedures. Graduate Program Coordinators are well versed in most elements of graduate education that extend beyond academic instruction in your program and will likely be your first stop for questions related to anything in this handbook. The Graduate Program Coordinator for MS Data Science is Jinda Moore (msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu).

Director of Graduate Studies

Each graduate program has one faculty member designated to direct its educational vision and structure.

Names and contact information of your graduate program coordinator and Director of Graduate Studies can be found on your program's page in the [Graduate Guide](#). Simply navigate to the "Degrees/Majors" tab, click on your program's name, and look for the contact information box on the righthand side.

Faculty Advisor

Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor in each graduate program in which they are enrolled. Your faculty advisor(s) will be a key source of guidance for your academic development. Further definition can be found in the [Policy Library](#) (#1232). Guidelines for finding, changing, and working with your advisor can be found in the Advising & Mentoring section below.

The name and contact information of your faculty advisor can be found on your Student Center in [MyUW](#) under "Academic Progress" and then "Advisors."

Graduate School Services

For general inquiries and graduate student services from the Graduate School, see the [front desk contact information](#).

Department and Program Overview

Please view the [Graduate Guide](#) for an overview of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Computer Sciences, along with MS Data Science program learning outcomes.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Department of Statistics, the Department of Computer Sciences, and the MS Data Science program strive to create a sense of belonging among all students, faculty, and staff. We foster an inclusive environment by treating other members of the community with esteem and respect. We honor diversity in our department and promote this sense of belonging by working together considerably toward our common goals of teaching, community engagement, and scientific innovation. We are dedicated to serving the [UW-Madison statement on diversity](#), and we are committed to creating an environment where all feel respected and included.

Students who need to report an incident, please view the [Graduate Guide Grievances and Appeals policies](#), and/or contact the program coordinator, Jinda Moore (msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu).

How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UW-Madison, you have a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides opportunities for professional networking.

In our Program/Department

As graduate students in the Department of Statistics and the Department of Computer Sciences, MS Data Science students are welcome to join graduate student organizations in both departments.

In the Department of Statistics, this includes the [Statistics Graduate Student Association \(SGSA\)](#). SGSA hosts student seminars and social events with the aim of creating community and developing professional networks, cultivation of research interests, and training in modern statistical tools.

The Department of Computer Sciences also hosts a wide variety of student organizations. You can find more information about these organizations on the

department's [Computer Science Student Organizations](#) webpage. Note that some student organizations are only for graduate students, some are for undergraduate students, and some may be open to both groups of students.

On Campus & In the Community

The Wisconsin Idea is the principle that education should influence and improve people's lives beyond the university classroom. For more than 100 years, this idea has guided the university's work.

You will find a list of ways to engage in campus and local community life at: [The Graduate School's Current Student Page](#).

If you are a student actively involved in leadership and service activities, consider nominating yourself for membership in the following honor society: [Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society](#).

Getting Started as a Graduate Student

This section outlines important steps to take as a graduate student at UW-Madison.

New Graduate Student Checklist

Be sure to review all steps listed on this webpage for new graduate students: [The Graduate School's New Student Page](#).

In addition to a checklist for all new graduate students, this webpage includes sections with additional steps to take if you are a new international student, student with a disability, student veteran, and student with children, or student with funding.

International Student Specific Events

International students will need to attend one of the mandatory [International Student Services \(ISS\) orientations](#). Click the link in the previous sentence for information on orientation dates and times. Please note that there are specific sections for incoming graduate students.

In Our Program

The Statistics department will have orientation events for incoming MS Data Science students, both online and in person. Additional information can be found in the MS Data Science Orientation course in Canvas and in your email inbox.

Advising and Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members alike.

Please see the [Graduate School's definition of an advisor](#). Your MS Data Science advisors have two main roles: 1) To assist you in acquiring the highest possible level of knowledge and competence in the field, and 2) to track your progress in completing your degree (note: this may include use of the [Graduate Student Tracking System](#)), assisting with course selection, and planning your academic path.

Advisors are assigned to MS Data Science students and include the MS Data Science program coordinator and an MS Data Science program committee member for academic advising. Because MS Data Science is a professional program, students do **not** form a graduate advising committee.

Because MS Data Science is a non-pooled (program revenue) professional Master's program, it has significant and specific campus and program policies impacting students for which the Graduate Coordinator will need to provide guidance. See the [Degree Requirements](#) section of this handbook for more information.

Students will need to receive approval for their enrollment each semester via the course plan survey, sent to students' wisc.edu email early each semester. This form can also be used to make edits or updates once enrolled in a term. Students who do not provide this form will have a hold put on their record for the following semester.

Information will be sent to students regarding courses for the following semester before enrollment begins: by early to mid-November for spring enrollment, and by early April for fall enrollment. Specific and detailed information will be provided via email and online to students in the spring and summer before they begin the program. Students with more specific questions are welcome to make an appointment with their program coordinator ([via Starfish](#)) or advisor at any time, and drop-in advising is also offered during peak enrollment times.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. Be sure to discuss this with your advisor. Students in the MS Data Science program are expected to read their wisc.edu email on a regular basis; respond to emails from the chair, academic advisor, and program coordinator; fill out their course approval plan form and other requested forms in a timely fashion; and contact the advisors with

any questions or concerns. These must all be done in a timely manner. See the [Statistics Department Advising Expectations webpage](#) for further information about advising expectations for both students and advisors.

A Graduate Student Guide to Working with Faculty Advisors

Through [this interactive, self-paced micro-course](#), graduate students learn about the characteristics of functional and dysfunctional relationships with faculty advisors, strategies for communicating effectively and aligning expectations, as well as program grievance processes and Hostile and Intimidating Behavior resources. Completion of the micro-course takes about 20 minutes and is optional but encouraged for all graduate students.

Office Hours

Professors, teaching assistants, and other instructors schedule time outside of class to meet with students called “office hours.” Office hours are times when you can meet your instructor to discuss coursework or other related interests. This may include asking for extra help understanding class materials, following up on something you found interesting in class, or to discuss their academic and/or professional interests, such as continuing graduate school or future internship or job prospects.

Instructors typically share their office hours’ time and location in their course syllabus.

While office hours are not required, many students find that visiting their instructors can be very helpful. Instructors do not have any lessons planned during this time, and it is typically the student’s responsibility to lead the interaction. A good way to prepare for office hours is to review your course materials, noting areas where you may need more help along with any questions you may have. It’s also a good idea to start attending office hours early in the semester, rather than waiting until you’re overwhelmed near the end of the term – it’s always easier to keep up with coursework than to try to catch up at the last second.

Office hours are not a time when your instructor will complete your assignments for you. Study your materials and try to complete any assignments before going to office hours. This will help you form good questions to discuss with your instructor.

Advising Expectations

Clearly defined expectations for both the student and advisor are a crucial starting point for a strong relationship. Programs/departments are encouraged to maintain a practice of producing “Advising Expectations” that clarify and document mutually agreed upon

expectations for both the student and advisor. Advising and enrollment expectations for the Department of Statistics can be found on the [Department of Statistics advising expectations website](#).

An [Individual Development Plan](#) may also be a helpful tool to reflect upon and plan your academic and professional goals, and may be used in conjunction with advising.

Mentoring Networks

In addition to your formal advisor, you are encouraged to develop a broad network of individuals who can provide academic and professional mentorship during and beyond your time as a graduate student.

Students are encouraged to visit their instructors' office hours (time instructors set aside to meet with their students) in order to develop a professional relationship with their instructors as well as better understand coursework. Students may also consider joining graduate student clubs, found at win.wisc.edu. Examples of such clubs include:

- [Statistics Graduate Student Association \(SGSA\)](#)
- [Student Association for Computing Machinery \(SACM\)](#)
- [Women's Association for Computing Machinery \(WACM\)](#)

Funding, Employment, and Finances

“Funding” is a term used to describe university employment or support to cover some or all of your costs of graduate education. It varies in type, amount, and level of guarantee.

As a professional MS program, the MS Data Science program is allowed to set its own market rate-based tuition, which is \$1,600 per credit (2025-26 academic year, subject to change from year to year) plus any relevant student fees. The tuition rate is the same for all students and is credit based.

General information on the current tuition rate and fees can be found on the [Bursar's website](#): the MS Data Science program is the “Tier 1600 with Segregated Fees” rate. To find our specific program, click the link in the previous sentence, select the correct term and academic year, and then search for “Data Science MS”.

MS Data Science students are expected to be self-supported and will need to pay the appropriate tuition during their time of study.

The Graduate School maintains policies related to graduate student funding/employment:

- [Maximum Levels of Appointments](#)
- [Concurrent Appointments for Fellows/Trainees](#)
- [Enrollment Requirements for Graduate Assistants](#)
- [Eligibility for Summer RA, TA, PA, and LSA Appointments](#)

Assistantships

Per [UW-Madison campus policy](#), students enrolled in the MS Data Science program may be employed in a graduate assistantship (teaching assistant/TA, research assistant/RA, project assistant/PA), but **are not eligible** to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments. Corporate tuition support and waiver of tuition for veterans is not included in these categories. See the [Graduate School's policy document regarding assistantships](#), along with the Graduate School's [policy document regarding tuition remission](#) to learn more about what tuition remission is and the sorts of positions that would grant remission.

MS Data Science Academic Scholarship Information

Admissions Scholarships

The MS Data Science program offers a limited number of selective scholarships to highly qualified applicants at the time of their recommendation of admission. These selected students may receive a scholarship of up to 25% of the MS Data Science program tuition charges over the duration of their time in the program in the form of fee deferrals. Potential scholarships for students entering the program with pre-approved credits would be prorated based on the number of credits needed to complete the program.

Notes on Academic Scholarships

- Students must maintain [satisfactory academic progress](#) to continue receiving admissions scholarships for the duration of their studies. Students who are found not maintaining satisfactory academic progress (including those who participate in academic misconduct) risk the removal or suspension of their scholarship.
- The MS Data Science program is not responsible for updating scholarship payments if students fail to communicate enrollment changes (i.e. enrolling in additional courses) in a timely manner.

Finding Funding without a Guaranteed Appointment

Campus-Wide and External Sources

To help students find resources to pay for costs related to graduate education, the Graduate School provides a comprehensive overview of the funding process on campus as well as descriptions of the types of funding available, sources of funding, minimum stipend rates and benefits, and links to applicable human resources policies (e.g. GAPP) at the following websites:

- [Graduate School: Funding and Financial Aid](#)
- [Fellowships Resource \(see "External Funding Opportunities" for external fellowships\)](#)
- [UW-Madison Libraries Grants Information Collection](#)
- [UW-Madison Student Jobs](#)

Additional Policies & Resources

- [Graduate School Policy: Residence for Tuition Purposes](#)
- [Employee Disability Resources](#)
- [Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures \(GAPP\)](#)

Degree Requirements

All students in the MS Data Science program are responsible for staying aware of the following requirements to complete the degree.

Prerequisite Courses

Students admitted to the MS Data Science program are expected to have courses equivalent to the UW-Madison courses listed on the [MS Data Science Graduate Guide Admissions page](#).

MS Data Science Requirements

For all current requirements to complete your degree (e.g. credits, courses, milestones, learning outcomes/goals, etc.) see the [MS Data Science program page in the Graduate Guide](#). Navigate to guide.wisc.edu/graduate, then select “Degrees/Majors,” your program’s name, and then “Requirements” from the navigation bar on the right side. You will be taken to a subsection of your program’s *Guide* page that contains all official requirements for your degree. Similarly, see “Policies” from the navigation bar of your program’s page to learn about policies affecting these requirements (e.g., prior coursework, probation, credits per term allowed, time constraints, grievances and

appeals, etc.). Note that when you look at the *Guide* to learn about program requirements, you will be viewing the current year's version. To find past versions of program requirements, see the [Guide Archive](#) and search for your program and the year you would like to reference.

Per campus policy, MS Data Science students:

- **may not take** courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval
- **cannot enroll** concurrently in other undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs.

Doing so may result in being removed from the MS Data Science program.

Course Plan Survey

Each semester, MS Data Science students are required to submit a course plan survey indicating the courses that they are enrolled in for the upcoming semester. This allows MS Data Science program coordinators to ensure that students in our program are continuing to make satisfactory academic progress in the program and are enrolling according to [MS Data Science program requirements](#).

The link to the course plan survey will be emailed to all students' wisc.edu email address at the beginning of each semester. If students do not submit their course survey plan by the deadline, a hold will be placed on their record preventing any future enrollment (add/drop/swap current courses or future semester enrollment).

All changes to enrollment after students' course plans **must** be approved by an MS Data Science program coordinator. **Students who do not inform program coordinators of enrollment changes risk not making satisfactory academic progress, which may jeopardize their graduation status.**

Time to Degree

Students are expected to complete the MS Data Science program in 3-4 semesters. Students who wish to pursue the program part time must receive permission from the program chair (email msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu).

Additional Policies

- Students may take a maximum of 3 credits of COMP SCI 799 and/or STAT 699 research electives
- Students may not enroll in machine learning core course(s) during their first semester without prior approval from the MS Data Science program chair

- Students holding an F-1 or J-1 visa who need to enroll in a CPT course for federal internship requirements will be expected to enroll in [STAT 403](#) (1 credit) or [COMP SCI 702](#) (1-2 credits)
 - Students may count up to 3 credits of STAT 403 and/or COMP SCI 702 toward degree requirements
 - Students may enroll in STAT 403 for a maximum of 3 times or COMP SCI 702 a maximum of 2 times, for a total of up to 3 credits
 - Students enrolled in 2 credits of COMP SCI 702 (full-time co-op/internship) may not enroll in any additional coursework

Additional policies for MS Data Science can be found in the [MS Data Science Graduate Guide Policies webpage](#).

Enrollment Requirements

Students are responsible for following Graduate School policies related to course enrollment requirements and limitations:

- [Adding / Dropping Courses](#)
- [Auditing Courses](#)
- [Canceling Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment Accountability](#)
- [Minimum Enrollment Requirements](#)

Students with visas and/or assistantships have different enrollment minimums. It is extremely important to understand how these policies apply to your specific situation.

Visa-Holding International Students

International students who are on visas are [required to be enrolled full-time](#) on the campus that issued their I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students). Visit the International Student Services (ISS) [webpage for current students](#) for more information on enrollment requirements for international students.

Students with Assistantships

Students employed in a graduate assistantship (teaching assistant, research assistant, project assistant) have special [enrollment requirements](#) to maintain full-time status.

In order to maintain full-time student status during the fall and spring semesters, students holding a teaching assistant or project assistant position of at least 33.33% must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits, while those who hold an appointment of at least 50% must be enrolled in a minimum of 4 credits. Research Assistant students are

required to maintain a full enrollment load each semester during the academic year (8-15 credits).

Sample Course Schedules

Students are expected to complete the program in 3-4 semesters. Students who wish to pursue the program part time must receive permission from the program chair.

Below are sample course schedules for the typical MS Data Science student. Contact your graduate program coordinator (msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu) with any specific questions, or to create an enrollment plan that reflects your goals.

Please use the linked [MS Data Science requirements worksheet](#) to help plan your enrollment.

Four-semester MS Data Science student

- First Fall term: STAT 611 (3), STAT 613 (3), Computer Sciences core (3-4)
- First Spring term: STAT 612 (3), Computer Sciences core (3-4), Machine Learning core (3)
- Second Fall term: Computer Sciences core (3-4), Machine Learning core (3), Data Science elective (3)
- Second Spring term: Any remaining electives (3)
 - Note: F-1/J-1 visa-holding students must enroll in a minimum of 8 credits in all terms except the final semester, when a Reduced Course Load may be requested. Visit the [International Student Services \(ISS\) website](#) for more information about [full-time enrollment requirements](#) and [Reduced Course Load](#) for visa-holding students.

Three-semester MS Data Science student

- First Fall term: STAT 611 (3), STAT 613 (3), COMP SCI core course (3-4)
- First Spring term: STAT 612 (3), Computer Sciences core (6-8), Machine Learning core (3)
- Second Fall term: Machine Learning core (3), Data Science electives (6)

Accelerated pathway MS Data Science student (option for UW alumni only)

- Because UW alumni in MS Data Science may come from a variety of academic backgrounds, interested students are encouraged to contact the MS Data Science program coordinator at msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu for more information.

Final Semester

Students in their final semester with only one credit of program coursework remaining may [request an exception](#) to the UW-Madison Graduate School's minimum enrollment requirement of 2 credits.

Students holding an F-1 or J-1 visa who need to complete less than 8 credits in their final semester must [request a Reduced Course Load \(RCL\)](#). This maintains active visa status without full-time enrollment. RCL requests need to be submitted prior to the semester in which a student plans to graduate.

Students who intend to graduate must apply for graduation by the end of the 4th week of classes so that graduate program coordinators can request their graduation warrant. Instructions for applying for graduation through the MyUW Student Center can be found on the Registrar's Office [Apply for Graduation website](#).

Summer Graduation: Visa-holding International Students

Visa-holding international students completing degree requirements during the summer term will have additional rules and policies that must be followed, and which may affect future visa-status and employment in the US. International students planning to graduate in the summer must [meet with an ISS advisor](#) to discuss their summer graduation plans and implications.

Master's Degree Checklist: Timeline & Deadlines

The Graduate School maintains a [list of steps to complete a Master's degree](#), including deadlines and important things to know as you progress toward graduation. In addition to what is posted on this webpage from the Graduate School, you must complete all program requirements.

International Student Services: Program Completion Checklist

[International Student Services](#) (ISS) has compiled many resources for visa-holding students who are completing their program of study, including a program completion checklist, timeline, and Frequently Asked Questions section.

Academic Exception Petitions

Academic exceptions are considered on an individual case-by-case basis and are not considered a precedent. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the program recognizes that there are, in some cases, extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Petitions for course substitutions or exceptions to the

Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct) must be directed to the MS Data Science committee chair (msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu). The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. The specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition must be identified.
2. All coursework substitutions and equivalents will be decided by MS Data Science program committee members.

More generally, the MS Data Science committee chair, in consultation with the student's advisor, may grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances as noted in university regulations, including:

- childbirth or adoption
- significant elder or dependent care obligations
- disability or chronic illness
- circumstances beyond one's personal control.

Where warranted, the petition should provide good evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with the standard and to acceptably complete the program. The normal extension will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances. Formal extensions will be granted with a note of explanation maintained in the student's record.

Students who wish to request an exception to a requirement (including substitutions) or seek permission to apply previous coursework should first consult with an MS Data Science program coordinator, either by emailing msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu or by [scheduling an appointment](#). Following this consultation, the student will be encouraged to write a formal petition to the MS Data Science committee chair.

Academic exception petitions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. All petitions will be reviewed, and students will be notified via email whether their petition has been approved or denied. Note that academic exception petitions may take at least 10 business days for processing and review once submitted.

Exception petitions are not intended to serve as a way for students to bypass MS Data Science program requirements.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Your continuation as a graduate student at UW-Madison is at the discretion of your program, the Graduate School, and your faculty advisor. Any student may be placed on probation or dismissed from the Graduate School for not maintaining satisfactory academic progress, and this can impact your academic standing (detailed below), [financial aid](#), or funding (consult your sources of funding, as applicable). Our program has its own definition of satisfactory academic progress and related procedures that supplement the Graduate School policy, as described in this section.

Definition

In addition to the Graduate School's monitoring of [satisfactory academic progress](#), MS Data Science program coordinators regularly review the satisfactory academic progress of its students.

For MS Data Science, satisfactory academic progress includes:

- Maintaining [minimum 3.000 \(B average\) cumulative GPA](#) for all graduate courses
- Taking only courses within the prescribed [MS Data Science curriculum](#)
 - Students in an extraordinary circumstance that requires outside coursework must receive approval prior to enrolling in outside coursework (email msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu)
- Graduating in the semester in which all degree requirements are completed
- Enrolling **only** in the MS Data Science program, [not concurrently enrolled](#) in any other academic programs
- Submitting [course plan surveys](#) each semester
- Upholding [personal conduct expectations](#)

For students on academic scholarship, continued receipt of admissions scholarships is contingent on maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Students who are found not maintaining satisfactory academic progress (including those who participate in academic misconduct) risk the removal of their scholarship.

Not Meeting Academic Expectations

Program coordinators will review student progress each term by monitoring grades, course enrollment, and GPA. If MS Data Science program coordinators find that a student has failed to achieve satisfactory progress in the academic expectations set by the program, the student will be contacted and required to meet with the program chair and/or program coordinator to discuss their plan to return to good standing. Additionally, students in this status may have a hold placed on their record either by the program and/or the Graduate School, and may face disciplinary action or removal from the program.

Graduation

The program will request an MS Graduation Warrant in your final term, provided that all coursework has been or is in the process of being completed. The MS Graduation Warrant will be submitted to the Graduate School once all the final semester grades have been submitted and the program confirms that all grades and the overall GPA meet the standards for satisfactory academic progress.

It can often take 4-6 weeks from the end of the semester until a degree is posted on a student's transcript. Students who need proof of graduation before this time are recommended to request [Certification of Graduation](#) from the Office of the Registrar.

Apply to Continue for a Statistics or Computer Sciences PhD

Students who wish to apply for a PhD program in Statistics or Computer Sciences should review the websites regarding the [Statistics PhD program](#) and/or [Computer Science PhD program](#) for more information on the application process and requirements. Students may also contact the relevant [Statistics PhD coordinator](#) or [Computer Sciences PhD program manager](#) for clarification of next steps.

Personal Conduct Expectations

Professional Conduct

The [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) maintains detailed guidance on student rights and responsibilities related to learning in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability. You are responsible for keeping aware of their policies and procedures.

Students should avoid even an appearance of improper behavior or lack of ethical standards while in the Graduate School at UW-Madison, in all professional settings, and in their personal lives. Students should conduct themselves according to the standards expected of members of the profession to which the student aspires.

Concerns about infractions of Professional Conduct may be effectively handled informally between the instructor/advisor and the student. If a resolution is not achieved, a graduate program representative may be included in the discussion. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action regarding the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant websites. **Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.**

1. **Professional Ethics:** Students shall show respect for a diversity of opinions, perspectives, and cultures; accurately represent their work and acknowledge the contributions of others; participate in and commit to related opportunities; aim to gain knowledge and contribute to the knowledge base of others; understand the [UW-Madison Student Code of Conduct](#); represent their profession and the program; and strive to incorporate and practice disciplinary ideals in their daily lives. Resumes/CVs must reflect accurate information.
2. **Honesty and Integrity:** Students shall demonstrate honesty and integrity as shown by their challenging of themselves in academic pursuits; honesty and ethics in research and IRB applications – including honesty in interpretation of data; commitment to an unbiased interpretation of academic and professional endeavors; and the need to document research activities, protect subject/client confidentiality and HIPAA regulations. Students shall follow through and pull their weight in group activities; understand where collaboration among students is or is not allowed; not plagiarize others or past work (self-plagiarism), cheat, or purposefully undermine the work of others; and avoid conflicts of interest for the duration of their time in the program. As a professional, honesty and integrity also extends to personal behavior in life outside of the academic setting by realizing that students are representatives of the program, UW-Madison, and the profession.
3. **Interpersonal and Workplace Relationships:** Students shall interact with peers, faculty, staff, and those they encounter in their professional capacity in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and professional. This includes and is not limited to attending all scheduled meetings, honoring agreed upon work schedules, being on time and prepared for work/meetings, contributing collaboratively to the team, keeping the lines of communication open, offering prompt response to inquiries, and employing respectful use of available equipment/technology/resources. Chronic or unexplained absences are unprofessional in the workplace and could be grounds for termination or removal of funding. To facilitate the free and open exchange of ideas, any criticism shall be offered in a constructive manner, and the right of others to hold different opinions shall be respected.
4. **Commitment to Learning:** Students are expected to always meet their educational responsibilities. Be actively prepared for class and be ready for questions and answers. Be on time for every class and always show courtesy during class or if you must leave class early. If possible, students should notify the instructor at least one day in advance of a planned absence. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for finding out what occurred that day and should not expect instructors to give them individual instruction. Recognizing

that the pursuit of knowledge is a continuous process, students shall show commitment to learning by persevering despite adversity and seeking guidance to adapt to change. Students shall strive for academic excellence and pursue and incorporate all critiques, both positive and negative, in the acquisition of knowledge to understand and respect the community in which they work.

5. **Professional Appearance:** Students shall convey a positive, professional appearance to represent the program in a dignified manner. Appearance includes a person's dress, hygiene, and appropriate etiquette/protocols for the environment (including safety protocols and protective clothing in environments that require them).

This graduate program, the Graduate School, and the Division of Student Life all uphold the UW-System policies and procedures in place for academic and non-academic misconduct. In addition, graduate students are held to the same standards of responsible conduct of research as faculty and staff. Furthermore, unprofessional behavior toward clients/subjects, faculty, staff, peers, and public are significant issues in the evaluation and promotion of students. In turn, we hold expectations for the highest level of academic integrity and expect professional, ethical, and respectful conduct in all interactions. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the graduate program for misconduct or disregard for professional conduct expectations regardless of their academic standing in the program. Separate and apart from a violation of professional conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action about the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant websites. **Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.**

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

The Graduate School

[Academic Policies and Procedures: Misconduct, Academic](#)

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

[Academic Misconduct Website](#)

[Student Resources for Academic Integrity](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

[Chapter 14: Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

Non-Academic Misconduct

Non-academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes non-academic misconduct, and procedures related to non-academic misconduct, see:

The Graduate School

[Academic Policies and Procedures: Misconduct, Non-Academic](#)

Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards

[Non-Academic Misconduct Website](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

[Chapter 17: Student Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

[Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands](#)

Research Misconduct

Trust in the accuracy and veracity of the scholarly record are fundamental to science. When that record is tainted, whole fields of study can be set back or questioned. Moreover, when scientists have been found to engage in misconduct, partners and the public lose faith in the ability of all scientists to address society's grand challenges.

Per [UW-Madison policy](#), “research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.” The policy applies to all those involved in the research process including graduate students.

For more information, please visit the [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research research misconduct page](#).

If you have questions or concerns about research misconduct or integrity, this can be discussed confidentially with the Research Integrity Officer (rio@research.wisc.edu).

Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying)

Hostile and intimidating behavior (HIB), sometimes referred to as “bullying,” is prohibited by university policy applicable to faculty, academic staff, and university staff. For further

definition, policy, and procedures related to HIB see: hr.wisc.edu/hib. Students who feel that they have been subject to HIB are encouraged to review the informal and formal options available on the "[Addressing HIB](#)" tab of this website.

Grievance Process

Each college or program on campus has a grievance process that students can use to address other concerns regarding their experience in the program. The MS Data Science program's grievance process can be found in detail in the [MS Data Science Graduate Guide](#).

Process and Sanctions for Violations of Conduct Standards

Failure to meet the program's academic or conduct expectations can result in disciplinary action including immediate dismissal from the program. If a student is not making satisfactory progress regarding academic or conduct expectations, the advisor will consult with the program committee to determine if disciplinary action or dismissal is recommended.

Possible Department Disciplinary actions

- Written reprimand
- Denial of specified privilege(s)
- Imposition of reasonable terms and conditions on continued student status
- Removal of funding
- Probation
- Restitution
- Removal of the student from the course(s) in progress
- Failure to promote
- Withdrawal of an offer of admission
- Placement on leave of absence for a determined amount of time
- Suspension from the program for up to one year with the stipulation that remedial activities may be prescribed as a condition of later readmission. Students who meet the readmission condition must apply for readmission and the student will be admitted only on a space available basis. See the Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures: [Readmission to Graduate School](#)
- Suspension from the program. The suspensions may range from one semester to four years.
- Dismissal from the program
- Denial of a degree

Incident Reporting (Hate, Bias, Sexual Assault, Hazing, Students of Concern, Bullying)

The [Office of Student Assistance and Support](#) maintains a portal to report incidents of hate, bias, sexual assault, hazing, dating/domestic violence, stalking, missing students, and students displaying other concerning behaviors at UW-Madison:

[Office of Student Assistance and Support Incident Reporting](#)

As noted above in “[Personal Conduct Expectations](#),” students who feel they have been subject to hostile and/or intimidating behavior (i.e. bullying) are encouraged to review the informal and formal options for addressing this behavior (including filing complaints when desired) at:

[Human Resources Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Website](#)

Professional Development

When students participate in professional development, they build skills needed to succeed academically and thrive in their career. The following are professional development activities that we recommend for your consideration. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to seek out campus resources that focus on this area.

On Campus

The Graduate School develops and curates a wide variety of resources for professional development, including a tool to assess student skills, set goals, and create a plan with recommended activities on campus (i.e. the [Individual Development Plan](#) or “IDP”) as well as programming to help students explore careers, prepare for a job search, build their network, learn more from alumni, manage projects, communicate about research, and much more.

[DiscoverPD](#) helps master’s and doctoral students at UW-Madison advance their academic and professional goals with customized recommendations based on a skills self-assessment. The 400+ professional development recommendations available in the DiscoverPD database are available in a range of formats to best meet diverse needs, including in-person, virtual, asynchronous, and synchronous opportunities.

The Graduate School communicates professional development opportunities through an e-newsletter, [GradConnections](#), that all graduate students receive at their wisconsin.edu email. Graduate Students in [onsite degree programs](#) receive the newsletter weekly during the academic year and every other week in the summer.

Department of Statistics Professional Development

MS Data Science students are encouraged to join in Statistics Department professional development events and opportunities. Students are also encouraged to meet with the program coordinators for one-on-one help with professional development. The Department of Statistics also maintains a [Student Career Resources](#) website.

Department of Computer Sciences Professional Development

Students in the MS Data Science program are encouraged to participate in Department of Computer Sciences professional development events and opportunities. The Computer Sciences Department maintains a [Student Career Resources](#) website.

School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences (CDIS) Professional Development

The UW-Madison School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences (CDIS) holds a career fair each fall, which is open to all UW-Madison students with computer, data, or information skills. Check the [CDIS Career Fair website](#) for more details.

International Student Services

The [International Student Services](#) (ISS) office is a great resource for international students with professional development questions, especially regarding visa status and eligibility for CPT/OPT.

Intellectual Property

Graduate students should seek to understand their rights and obligations related to intellectual property, including how patents and copyrights protect their work and when invention disclosure policies apply. This is especially important if there are special considerations related to external funding sources.

Faculty and instructors should discuss these topics with graduate students, making intellectual property education a part of their research culture. Graduate programs should keep abreast of educational opportunities on the topic of intellectual property and inform their graduate students and faculty about these.

The primary campus resource for intellectual property policy and information is the [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education](#) website. Additionally, the [Graduate School Office of Professional Development](#) maintains a collection of online resources aimed at highlight intellectual property topics, including [Introduction to Intellectual Property](#), [Introduction to Patents](#), and other topics of interest to graduate students.

Student Health and Wellness

University Health Services

Students who pay segregated fees are eligible to access [University Health Services](#), also known as UHS. There is no charge to students for many basic services including counseling sessions because services are paid through tuition and fees. Personal health and wellness services are also available in addition to medical services.

Securing Health Insurance Coverage

Graduate students who hold an assistantship appointment (teaching assistant, research assistant, or program assistant) of 33.33% or more, or who hold a fellowship, may be eligible for health insurance and other benefits beyond University Health Services. Contact the staff benefits and payroll coordinator in the unit where you have been hired to see whether you may select one of several healthcare plans within 30 days of your hire date. **Please note that MS Data Science students are not allowed to accept any tuition remission offered with a graduate assistantship appointment.**

Graduate students without an assistantship or fellowship who are currently enrolled can access [University Health Services](#) (UHS), the campus health clinic. Many services are provided at no extra cost, including outpatient medical care during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. UHS is located in the Student Services Tower at 333 East Campus Mall, 608-265-5600 or uhs@uhs.wisc.edu.

Prescription medications, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations are not included in UHS benefits. Therefore, supplemental insurance for these drugs and services is recommended for all students and is required for international students. The [UHS Student Health Insurance Plan](#) (SHIP) is an excellent option for many students. Contact the SHIP office at 608-265-5232 or shipmail@uhs.wisc.edu for more information.

Disability Information

Students with disabilities have access to disability resources through UW-Madison's McBurney Disability Resource Center. As an admitted student, you should first follow the steps to [apply for accommodations](#).

Additional non-academic disability campus resources (not found through the McBurney Center) can be found under the Other Resources drop down menu near the top of the page on the [McBurney website](#).

Visit [Accessibility @ UW-Madison](#) for a centralized location of campus accessibility and disability resources.

On- and Off-campus Mental Health Resources

University Health Services is the primary mental health provider for students on campus. [UHS Mental Health Services](#) offers a wide range of services to the diverse student community of UW-Madison, including immediate crisis counseling, same-day appointments, and ongoing treatment. UHS Mental Health Services can be reached at 608-265-5600 (option 2), and offers 24/7 crisis support at 608-262-5600 (option 9). UHS service costs are covered for students through tuition and fees.

While there are many mental health resources throughout the Madison community, UHS Mental Health Services is the best resource for referrals to off-campus providers. Call 608-265-5600 (option 2) for assistance in finding an off-campus provider.

Inclusion Resources

Multicultural Student Center

The [Multicultural Student Center](#) (MSC) serves as home to a variety of identity centers, cultural programs, student organizations, and other community building events for students of color on campus. The MSC also provides drop-in hours that are free and open to all students, and which provide help and advice with writing, staying healthy, and more.

Gender and Sexuality Campus Center

The [Gender and Sexuality Campus Center](#) (GSCC) focuses on training, education, and campus climate intervention for LGBTQ+ students and allies, to help all students thrive on campus. GSCC provides drop-in space for students, support services, training and resources, and community involvement activities including discussion groups and a peer mentor program.