

## Fall 2026 Enrollment Information for Data Science Certificate

# DATA SCIENCE CERTIFICATE

FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT NEWSLETTER

Please carefully read this entire email for Fall 2026 enrollment information.

Remember a certificate is meant to complement your major. We recommend Data Science certificates enroll in only **1-2 data science/coding/quantitative courses per fall/spring semester**. If you are in a STEM/quantitative major, a maximum of **three** quantitative/coding/STEM courses per semester is our recommendation.

---

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

1. Important dates
2. Advising
3. Enrollment holds & pre-enrollment checklist
4. Priority enrollment & enrollment restrictions
5. Certificate course changes
6. New certificate courses
7. Action items for Fall 2026 Graduates

---

### IMPORTANT DATES (<https://registrar.wisc.edu/dates/>)

- **March 11** – Fall 2026 courses available on Course Search & Enroll
- **Week of March 23** – Fall 2026 term enrollment appointment times assigned to students throughout this week (check your MyUW Student Center and @wisc.edu email inbox).
- **March 26 to April 5** – Spring Break!
- **Week of April 6** - Students begin enrolling for Fall 2026 term courses according to appointment times.

---

### ADVISING

**Minimal & Quick Questions** – Email [dscert@stat.wisc.edu](mailto:dscert@stat.wisc.edu) or attend **Zoom Drop-Ins**

Zoom drop-in advising is available [every Wednesday from 1-2 PM](#). No drop-ins on Apr 1.

---

*If you have issues preventing you from enrolling at your enrollment time (either technical or personal), please email [dscert@stat.wisc.edu](mailto:dscert@stat.wisc.edu).*

# Fall 2026 Enrollment Information for Data Science Certificate

## Complex Questions – Schedule a Starfish Appointment

Individual one-on-one appointments are preferred for complex questions, unique situations, or discussing course plans **BEYOND** the Fall 2026 semester.

*If you wish to switch to the Data Science major, please meet with a [DS major advisor](#).*

## Please see the following links if you have further questions.

- STAT course enrollment FAQ: <https://stat.wisc.edu/courses-and-enrollment/>
  - COMP SCI course enrollment FAQ: <https://www.cs.wisc.edu/courses-2/>
  - How to run a DARS report: <https://registrar.wisc.edu/dars-student/>
- 

## ENROLLMENT HOLDS & PRE-ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST

Please check your Student Center to check for any holds or tasks that will impact your enrollment.

- [Viewing your Holds](#)
  - [Pre-Enrollment Checklist](#)
- 

## PRIORITY ENROLLMENT & ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS

Always review the **subject notes and course notes** section in [Course Search & Enroll](#) to find out if individual courses have priority enrollment access or enrollment restrictions.

### Priority Enrollment

- Some Data Science Certificate courses will give priority enrollment for **declared DS certificate students**. It will be noted in [Course Search & Enroll](#) as “Data Science Certificate” or “Certificate in Data Science”.
- Priority enrollment **does not guarantee** access into certificate courses but will allow declared DS certificate students to enroll before non-declared students.
- Several courses include L I S 461, 462, COMP SCI 320, 544, STAT 340, 405, 436, 441, and other elective courses.

### Enrollment Restrictions

- Some Data Science Certificate courses may not allow undergraduate students to enroll in certain semesters. This is entirely up to the department that is offering the course; we cannot override their restrictions.
  - **Example:** GEOG 579 is restricted to GIS Professional Program students.
- Check each section: often, certain sections are reserved for specific student groups.

---

*If you have issues preventing you from enrolling at your enrollment time (either technical or personal), please email [dscert@stat.wisc.edu](mailto:dscert@stat.wisc.edu).*

# Fall 2026 Enrollment Information for Data Science Certificate

- **Example:** most STAT elective courses reserve **LEC 001 for undergraduate students** and LEC 002 for graduate students.
- 

## **CERTIFICATE COURSE CHANGES**

### **Removal of INFO SYS 322 from DS cert curriculum**

Due to significant course changes, **INFO SYS 322 is no longer approved** for the Data Science certificate domain elective, effective Fall 2026.

Students who completed INFO SYS 322 prior to Fall 2026 will still have the course count towards their six required elective credits.

### **No future offerings of E C E 204 and 570**

The Electrical & Computer Engineering Department has confirmed that E C E 204 and 570 will not be taught in the future. Students should not plan on taking these courses.

### **Changes to L I S 461, NEW L I S 462 Effective Fall 2026**

The Information School has made changes to L I S 461, effective Fall 2026:

- L I S 461 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy
  - **Change: 3 credits, lecture-only. Not Comm-B. Not open to students with credit for L I S 462.**
  - Humanities breadth, Intermediate Level, LAS credit (same as now)

**Because L I S 461 is moving to a non-Comm-B option permanently, the Information School has created the following option:**

- L I S 462 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy (Communications Intensive)
  - 4 credits, lecture + weekly discussion
  - **Communication B designated. Not open to students with credit for L I S 461.**
  - Humanities breadth, Intermediate level, LAS credit
  - This course counts towards the DS certificate's Data Ethics category

As always, DS advisors can **never** guarantee that students will be able to enroll in a Comm-B ethics class, as this is a highly popular option within a large enrollment major. Continue to plan backup Comm-B courses with your major advisor.

---

# Fall 2026 Enrollment Information for Data Science Certificate

## NEW CERTIFICATE COURSES

Please read course requisites carefully (both at the course level and section level) in [Course Search & Enroll](#) to check enrollment eligibility as some courses are restricted to specific student populations.

### Data Ethics

- PHILOS 244 Introductory Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Ethics <sup>^</sup>
- L I S 462 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy (Communications Intensive) <sup>^</sup>

### Fundamental Electives

- COMP SCI 574 Data Management for Data Science <sup>^</sup>
- SOC 361 Statistics for Sociologists 1 <sup>^</sup>

### Domain Electives

- STAT/B M I 620 Statistics in Human Genetics
- BOTANY/PL PATH 563 Phylogenetics Analysis of Molecular Data
- STAT 441 Advanced Sports Analytics <sup>^</sup>
  - *Students who took this course in fall 2025 as a STAT 479 course cannot take it again.*

Courses with a <sup>^</sup> will be offered in Fall 2026.

---

## ACTION ITEMS FOR FALL 2026 GRADUATES

### Apply for Graduation

If you are planning to graduate in December, you **MUST** apply for graduation after enrolling in your courses. [Follow these Apply for Graduation steps.](#)

### Additional links regarding graduation

- Office of the Registrar's [diploma information webpage](#)
- What appears on your [transcript](#)
- [University Commencement](#)
- [College of Letters & Science celebration](#)
- [Department of Statistics graduation celebration](#)

### What if I do not see Data Science certificate on my graduation application?

The Apply for Graduation portal will only display a student's degree (and/or affiliated major). Your graduation application applies to all your declared majors and certificates; no additional steps are necessary.