



Department of Statistics
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA & INFORMATION SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Computer Sciences
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MS Data Science New Student Information

Fall 2026

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Overview

Welcome to the Department of Statistics, the Department of Computer Sciences, and the MS Data Science program. The information in this guide is designed to help provide vital information on things that new students must do and know before and as they arrive on campus.

If you have questions during this process, please reach out to the MS Data Science program coordinator, Jinda Moore, at msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu.

Requirements

MS Data Science students, as graduate students, will need to follow both the program requirements and the [Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures](#). The MS Data Science requirements and Handbook can be found on the [MS Data Science website](#) in the Curriculum and Career Information section. The 2026-27 MS Data Science Handbook will be published in Summer 2026.

Housing

Listed below is a collection of resources for finding housing in Madison. This is not an exhaustive list, but instead a good place to begin looking for possible housing. It is highly recommended that new students check out any place before signing a lease. Don't hesitate to ask people in Madison for referrals of places to look and for assistance in looking at a place.

There are the places where students do (and don't) want to live. Campus parking is very difficult for students to get, so most students choose to live within walking or biking distance from campus, or near a bus line.

- [OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING MARKETPLACE](#) - This service is provided by Campus and Visitor Relations and includes listings for apartments, houses, efficiencies, rooms and co-ops for students and the university community, along with other housing-related information. The Off-campus Housing Marketplace website also includes a [map of available housing](#).
- Many graduate students like to live in the Vilas neighborhood and the Williamson "Willy" Street/Jenifer "Jenny" Street neighborhoods. Some graduate students and young professionals live in the apartments just west of Hilldale Mall. These neighborhoods are readily accessible to campus by both bus and bike and the general population is not undergrads. Other areas close by to those neighborhoods will also typically have good bus and bike access to campus.
- [ON-CAMPUS HOUSING](#) - Housing options for undergraduate and graduate

- students through the Division of University Housing.
- LARGE PROPERTY MANAGERS
 - [Madison Property Management](#)
 - [Steve Brown Apartments](#)
 - [Mullins Apartments](#)
 - [MADISON COMMUNITY CO-OPS \(MCC\)](#) - MCC is a cooperative community of 11 households, most within 1/2 mile of the University of Wisconsin campus, ranging in size from 8 to 34 members. Each house has a unique character and they try to create a safe, supportive family & community atmosphere.
 - LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLASSIFIED ADS
 - [Capital Newspapers](#)
 - SEARCH OPTIONS, WEBSITES, AND GROUPS
 - [Madison and Campus Downtown Living](#)
 - [Rentable](#)
 - [Craigslist](#)

Additionally, there is a [Tenant Resource Center](#) available in Madison.

Please be cautious and aware that there has been a recent rise in housing-related scams (some especially targeting international students). Do **not** send any individual banking information, cash, or checks until you have either visited the property or signed a lease document. If you fall victim to a housing scam, you can work with the [Tenant Resource Center](#).

NOTE ABOUT UTILITIES: When comparing the prices of different housing options, remember to take into consideration the cost of utilities. For example, if heat is not included in the rent remember that it will likely cost an additional \$50+ during the winter months!

Enrollment

Below is a list of links that will assist in first time enrollment.

- [MyUW](#) –enrollment is online through the “Course Search & Enroll” app in MyUW
- [Information on forgotten MyUW net ID and passwords](#)
- [UW-Madison Fall 2026 enrollment deadlines – permissions & procedures](#)
- [Registrar’s Office’s Enrollment Overview](#) drop-down menu has demos and tutorials for using campus systems

Information regarding full-time enrollment, part-time enrollment, international student enrollment requirements, etc. is available on the Graduate School’s Policies and Procedures document regarding enrollment requirements [at this link](#).

This year, new graduate students begin enrolling on June 22. You will receive additional

information from the program coordinator regarding what courses you need and can take in the Fall 2026 term before that time. It is very important to finalize your admission to MS Data Science and be fully matriculated to enroll and ensure access into your preferred courses.

Enrollment Hold(s)

It is important to check your MyUW Student Center every semester before enrollment begins to see if you have any enrollment holds on your account. An enrollment hold will prevent you from being able to enroll at the start of your enrollment appointment time. Holds can be from multiple sources including needing to complete your financial responsibility agreement, outstanding transcripts, probationary status, outstanding fees (tuition, segregated fees, library), etc.

The [Student Center navigation page](#) from the Registrar's Office is a useful tool for understanding how to do this. If you have a hold, click on any links to see more information on how to resolve the hold or who to contact for more information. If you cannot figure out how to resolve the hold or who to contact, please email the program coordinator at msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu.

Orientation Events

MS Data Science Events

As part of your orientation into our program, you will receive an invitation to a required online orientation Canvas course. This course contains essential information about the MS Data Science program, Department of Statistics and Department of Computer Sciences, and UW-Madison. All incoming students are required to participate in the Canvas course and pass the quiz with 100%.

There will also be an optional (but recommended) program-specific orientation session for incoming students to the MS Data Science program. This recommended in-person orientation session for MS Data Science will take place the week of August 24, before Fall 2026 classes start on September 2. More information about this recommended event will be shared before the start of the semester.

Graduate Student Events

As incoming graduate students, MS Data Science students are also encouraged to attend any and all welcome events and resources provided through the Graduate School. Information on these opportunities can be found on the [Graduate School's New Students webpage](#).

International Student Events

International students will need to complete a required International Student Orientation and check-in. Visit [the ISS website](#) for information on orientation dates and times, and please note

that there are specific sections for incoming graduate students.

Employment

Some students entering MS Data Science might be interested in exploring employment options on campus. Please make sure that you review all of the important rules regarding the positions that you are eligible for (this is in the handbook, link included above in [Requirements](#)). The easiest way to find hourly jobs is through the [UW Student Jobs board](#). International students should also make sure to review information on [ISS's website regarding employment rules for visa-holding students](#).

International Student Information

Incoming international students have additional required events and steps that they need to take. If you are an incoming international student, please review the list below and confirm that you have completed everything.

- [Complete the mandatory International Student Orientation and ISS Check-in](#) - check the ISS website for information
- **Get a Social Security Number (SSN)** - international students may need to get either an [SSN](#) or [ITIN](#) (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) if you are not eligible for an SSN
- [Enroll in SHIP](#) - all international students either need to sign up for the Student Health Insurance Plan or submit a waiver if they have a campus position that includes health insurance
- **Resolve any Graduate School document holds** - if you have not yet submitted your final official transcript to the Graduate School, you may have a hold on your record from the Graduate School, please check your student center to see if you have such a hold and how and when you need to resolve the hold; if you do not address the hold in a timely fashion you will not be able to enroll for courses the next semester
- **Review the [Department of Statistics International Student Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) website](#)**

Student Career Resources

The Department of Statistics has cultivated information related to obtaining careers. Students are welcome and encouraged to utilize the resources found on [the Department's website](#).