



MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS) Pre-decision Event

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Introduction



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Overview

- Requirements & sample enrollment plans
- Policies
- Funding options
- Cost of living in Madison & housing resources
- Career information & resources
- Next steps



Requirements

MSDS Program

- Core courses: 11 credits
 - STAT 601 Statistical Methods I
 - STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference
 - STAT 615 Statistical Learning
- Professional Skills courses: 6 credits
 - STAT 605 Data Science Computing Project
 - STAT 628 Data Science Practicum
- Elective courses: 13 credits
 - Minimum 6 cr 600+ Statistics course
 - Maximum 3 cr Stats undergraduate course
 - Maximum 1 course (up to 4 cr, 500+ level) from outside of the Statistics department

UW-Madison Graduate School

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

MSDS Graduate Guide:

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

Sample Enrollment Plans

2 Years (4 Semesters)

- First Semester
 - STAT 601 (4 cr)
 - STAT 610 (4 cr)
- Second Semester*
 - STAT 615 (3 cr)
 - Electives (6 cr)
- Third Semester
 - STAT 605 (3 cr)
 - STAT 628 (3 cr)
 - Electives (3 cr)
- Fourth Semester*
 - Any remaining electives (4 cr)

1.5 Years (3 Semesters)

- First Semester
 - STAT 601 (4 cr)
 - STAT 610 (4 cr)
 - STAT 605 or Elective (3 cr)
- Second Semester
 - STAT 615 (3 cr)
 - Electives (6-7 cr)
- Third Semester
 - STAT 605 or elective (3 cr)
 - STAT 628 (3 cr)
 - Remaining Electives (minimum 3 cr)

*F-1/J-1 visa holding students must enroll in a minimum of 8 credits in all semesters, except for the final semester



Policies

Program Policies

- Students may only have one core course (STAT 601, STAT 610, or STAT 615) with a passing grade below B (BC or C)
- Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress while in the program
 - Must maintain 3.000 cumulative GPA
 - Must only be enrolled in MSDS 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 (i.e. MS/PhD) is not permitted
- Enrollment in courses outside of the MSDS 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	\$2,483	784/2202
Without rent	\$905	590/2202
Rent and utilities	\$1,578	827/2202
Food	\$633	1019/2202
Transport	\$91.70	95/2202
Monthly salary after tax	\$4,348	1069/2202
Quality of life	84th percentile	147/2202
Population	270K	84/2202

As of October 14, 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

- In a survey of recent alumni at graduation
 - Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ are entering a PhD or continuing education
 - Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ have a job offer
 - Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ are still uncertain and/or applying for positions or education
- Continuing education: mostly PhD programs related to Statistics/Biostatistics, Industrial Engineering, Business Analytics at a variety of institutions in the U.S.
- Job offers are in a variety of companies with an emphasis on financial/investment institutions and tech or healthcare companies, mostly in the U.S. and China



Career Resources

- Students opt in & select what resources/opportunities they wish to engage with
- Department-specific events and opportunities sent via email
- Events and engagement opportunities
 - **Statistics Department:** staff advisors, career development coordinator, faculty, student orgs, department sponsored events, employers who visit the department, career development course, CPT course
 - **CDIS:** the School for Computing, 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.



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 visp-msds@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

- MSDS email address: visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu
- MSDS Program Page:
<https://stat.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/data-science-option/>
- MSDS Graduate Guide Page:
<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/statistics/statistics-ms/statistics-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/>
 - Visa-holding international students must be on-campus or have CPT authorization for employment

Questions?