

MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS) Program Requirements Summary – 2025-2026

The Department of Statistics is committed to the training and education of its graduate students. To facilitate this practice, we have created this summary document to help guide students through what to expect during their education in the MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS) program. The MSDS program is a named option, professional program within the broader MS Statistics program. Because MSDS is a professional program there are additional policies in areas such as funding and enrollment. The policies of the program are overseen by the VISP & MSDS Committee.

Tuition and Funding

The MSDS program, as a professional MS program, can set its own market-rate based tuition which is \$1,600 per credit (anticipated 2025-2026 academic year; this rate is 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 [Madison Budget Office website](#), our specific program is the tier-1600 with segregated fees rate.

Students enrolled in this program are eligible for graduate assistantship appointments, but are **not** eligible to receive tuition remission from such appointments at this institution [per campus policy](#). Corporate tuition support and waiver of tuition for veterans are allowed.

Graduate assistantship positions within the Statistics department will be shared with MSDS students when available. Students may find graduate assistantship positions in other departments on campus by visiting the [Student Jobs site](#).

Enrollment

The MSDS program is offered as a face-to-face program with courses offered during the week (no evening/weekend courses).

In most cases, the program expects students to be enrolled for a minimum of 8 credits at the graduate-level (no audited courses) each fall and spring term until graduation. Some students may take course loads such that they may prefer to enroll below the 8 credits minimum in their final term, and this is acceptable if students take a minimum of 2 credits. There may also be opportunities for special classes or internship options during summer terms.

Students are expected to enroll in a timely fashion and make sure that they have addressed any [holds that will prevent enrollment](#). Due to enrollment capacity constraints in some Statistics Department courses, the department may require prior approval and give a short time frame for enrollment in those courses. Each semester students will receive an email, prior to the [enrollment period](#), with information regarding these courses.

Per campus policy, students in this program may **not** take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without prior faculty advisor and program coordinator approval.

Concurrent Program Enrollment

Per campus policy, students in this program **cannot** enroll concurrently in other undergraduate, graduate or certificate programs. Doing so may result in a student being removed from the MSDS program.

Departmental Course Requirements

Students in the MSDS program are required to complete 30 credits (with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better). Students may only have one core course (STAT 601, 610, 615) with a passing grade below a B (BC or C) towards the program. Note that if an MSDS student receives more than one passing grade below B (i.e. BC or C) in core courses, they must receive an approved grade waiver.

Students who come to MSDS from the Statistics-VISP program will be allowed to transfer up to 14 credits from their enrollment during VISP to the MSDS program if they received a grade of C or higher. Note that if a Statistics-VISP student receives more than one passing grade below B (i.e. BC or C) in core courses, they must receive an approved grade waiver to maintain eligibility for MSDS. The 14 transferable credits typically will include STAT 601, 610, 615, and one approved Statistics-taught elective course.

Students who completed their undergraduate degree at UW-Madison will be allowed to transfer up to 7 credits of qualified coursework upon approval of the advisor.

Students are expected to complete the program in 2 semesters (if coming from the VISP program), 1 calendar year (September-August if qualified for the accelerated pathway for UW alumni) or 3-4 semesters. Students who wish to pursue the program part time must receive permission from the faculty director.

Prerequisite Courses

Students admitted to the MSDS program are expected to have courses equivalent to the UW-Madison courses listed below.

- 4 semesters of calculus
 - **MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry I** (5 cr)
 - **MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry II** (4 cr)
 - **MATH 234 Calculus–Functions of Several Variables** (4 cr)
 - **MATH 421 The Theory of Single Variable Calculus** (3 cr) or another advanced analysis course
- **MATH 340 Elementary Matrix and Linear Algebra** (3 cr)
- Highly recommended
 - **STAT 303 R for Statistics I** (1 cr)
 - **STAT 304 R for Statistics II** (1 cr)
 - **STAT/MATH 309 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics I** (3 cr)
 - **STAT/MATH 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II** (3 cr)

Course Requirements

MSDS course requirements can be found in the [MSDS Graduate Guide](#).

Program requirement planning worksheets to guide future enrollment planning can be found on the [MSDS website](#), on the “Program Requirements and Policies” drop-down menu.

English Proficiency Scores

Per [UW-Madison Graduate School policy](#), all international degree-seeking applicants must meet at least **one** of the following criteria:

- Earned a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university; **or**
- Earned a Masters or PhD degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university not more than 5 years prior to the anticipated start of enrollment; **or**
- Earned an undergraduate degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from an international institution where English is the exclusive language of instruction. The language of instruction stated on the official transcript or verified as the only language of instruction; **or**
- Completed at least two full-time semesters of graded coursework from an accredited institution where English is the exclusive language of instruction not more than 5 years prior to the anticipated start of enrollment. This coursework cannot include English language learning classes (i.e. ESL classes); **or**
- Provided official and admissible results of an English proficiency exam to the Graduate School. Scores must be within two years from the anticipated start of enrollment.

Official TOEFL or IELTS scores will need to be received by the Office of Graduate Admissions before they are able to process your admission to the MSDS program. Instructions for submitting English proficiency test scores can be found on the [Admissions webpage](#).

If your score is below the minimum 92 (TOEFL), 7 (IELTS), or 125 (Duolingo), you also **must** email the MSDS program coordinator, Jinda Moore (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu), so that she can petition Graduate School Admissions on your behalf to process your admission to the MSDS program.

MSDS Program Handbook

A full version of the 2024-25 program rules and requirements is available online at the [MSDS website](#) under the “Program Requirements and Policies” section towards the bottom of the page. An updated version of the MSDS Handbook for students beginning in the 2025-26 academic year will be uploaded in Summer 2025.

Questions

Please contact our MSDS program coordinator, Jinda Moore, at visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu.