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

Jinda Moore, MSDS Program Coordinator
Anna-Marie Heins, Recruitment Coordinator

Introductions

Jinda Moore
MSDS Program Coordinator
visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu

Anna-Marie Heins
Recruitment Coordinator

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	$2,320	1019/2202
Without rent	$887	653/2202
Rent and utilities	$1,433	1121/2202
Food	$619	1075/2202
Transport	$92.40	82/2202
Monthly salary after tax	$4,354	1063/2202
Quality of life	81st percentile	134/2202
Population	270K	84/2202

As of March 2, 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 ⅓ are entering a PhD or continuing education
  - Approximately ⅓ have a job offer
  - Approximately ⅓ 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?